



The Shark's Tale

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Volume I

September 2008

Alfred G. Waters students choose mascot



It is official. The students at Alfred G. Waters have voted for their mascot and school colors. The mascot is The Shark and the school colors are Navy Blue and Silver. The students voted from four possible mascots, the shark, stingray, buccaneers and barracudas. Listen to principal, Mr. Comegys on WDEL radio talk about the mascot process.

<http://www.wdel.com/features/WDELDelawareEducationWatch090308.mp3>

August 20, 2008 marked the one year anniversary of the dedication of Alfred G. Waters Middle School. Dr. Waters's daughter, Gloria Nowlin and her husband Bill and their Aunt Geneva visited with Principal Jim Comegys and Assistant Principal Dr. Laura Troxell. The teachers were having a staff meeting and got to meet the family as well. Ms. Nowlin is a retired high school principal and knew all about the beginning of school activities.



Meet The Alfred G. Waters Faculty and Staff

Sixth Grade Teacher Teams: Blue: Ms. Mary Koster, Ms. Dana Griffith, Ms. Amy Brown, White: Ms. Wendy Shetzler, Ms. Christine Colazzo, Ms. Kristi Fry, Red: Ms. Becky Phillips, Ms. Sarah Weir, Ms. Debbie Livingston, Yellow: Ms. Laura Conner, Ms. Karen Fox, Mr. Karl Veit.

Seventh Grade Teacher Teams: Blue: Ms. Kelly Green, Ms. Christine Curcuru, Ms. Erin Hazlett, Ms. Jenna Camponelli, Ms. Andrea Connelly, Ms. Katie Gerace. Red: Ms. Michelle Conway, Ms. Vicky Hodge, Ms. Jaime Churchill, Ms. Sam Neubert, Para, Ms. Marlene Ragghianti

Eight Grade Teacher Teams: Blue: Ms Jennie Hecksher, Ms. Kathleen Gove, Ms. Coleen Brown, Ms. Emily Woodson, Ms. Becky Martin, Ms Robin Otto. Red: Ms. Melissa Harrison, Mr. Craig Gamble, Mr. John Camponelli, Ms. Laurie Davis, Para Ms. Julie Harrington. Ms. Brynn Christopher, Ms. Jessica Munar, Para, Ms. Cathy Jackson, Para, Ms. Niya Evans, Para.

Related Arts Teaching Team: Ms. Margaret Lopez-Waite, Ms. Kathy Keating, Mr. Chris Rutter, Ms. Kelly Lafferty, Ms. Brenda Carpenter, Ms. Kristen Last, Mr. Wallace Waite, Ms. Linda Prickett, Ms. Lindsay Baker, Ms. Christine Payne,,Mr. John Gordon.

School Support Team. Ms.Loretta Newsom, Nurse, Ms. Kelli Garrity, Nurse, Ms.Altamese Babbage, Counselor, Ms. Lisa Donaldson, Counselor, Ms.Karen Burgess, Interventionist, Ms.Janice Johnson, Interventionist, Ms. Wendy Johns, Special Education Diagnostician, Ms. Maria Lucuniak, Psychologist, Ms. Lorraine James, Social Workder, Ms.Lisa O'Grady, Cafeteria Manager, Mr. Gordon Martin, Chief Custodian, Ms. Jen Adams, Secretary, Ms. Nancy Lopez-Powell, Secretary

Administrative Team. Mr. James S. Comegys, Principal, Dr. Laura Troxell, Assistant Principal.

ALFRED G. WATERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mr. James S. Comegys
Principal

Jim.Comegys@appo.k12.de.us

Dr. Laura H. Troxell
Assistant Principal

Laura.Troxell@appo.k12.de.us

School Website:
www.agwaters.org

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**AGW: Attitude, Goals
and Wisdom**

PBS Positive Behavior Support at Alfred G. Waters News and Events, Attitude, Goals and Wisdom



All of us here at AGW are very excited about our PBS program. Our team has taken the best of PBS from Redding, Meredith, Olive B. Loss and Cedar Lane to develop our program. Students will be earning tickets for following our expectations. Both weekly and monthly tickets drawings will be held along with trimester events and spirit days. These are just a few of the exciting things we have planned! Our September Events include:

- Weekly Drawing 9/5: Lunch Line Pass
- Weekly Drawing 9/12: MHS Football Tickets
- Weekly Drawing 9/19: AGW Dance Tickets
- Weekly Drawing 9/26: Morning Announcer
- Monthly Drawing 9/30: Pizza Lunch with Friends

PTA NEWS from Ms. Christy Payne, PTA President

Welcome back to school and to your newly formed PTA! A wonderful team of parent volunteers has been working very hard this summer to have the PTA ready to roll for the beginning of school. We have many fun and exciting family events planned for the year. Keep your eye out for the PTA schedule that will be coming home within the first few days of school. It will be on pretty, blue paper– that is the PTA color this year so anytime you see blue...pay attention! It is important PTA news! Also, be sure to check out the PTA page on the AGW website. Go to www.agwaters.org and click on “Parents” to find the PTA. We will keep the site updated with information pertinent to our families. We are really looking forward to working with all of you this year!

Big thanks to Tracy Keeperts, Tricia Salvato and Amy Schmidt for decorating the teachers lunch room. It is just lovely.

Membership

Becoming a member of the PTA is perhaps the most important thing you can do to support AGW! A blue membership form was sent home with the initial mailer from the school. Hopefully, everyone already has their form filled out and ready to turn in! The PTA will have a table at each open house where you can drop off your membership or you can drop it off in the office or you can send it to school with your child in an envelope marked “AGW PTA” or you can mail it to AGW PTA, 1235 Cedar Lane Road, Middletown, DE 19709 or you can bring it to our first meeting on September 18th...there are so many easy ways to join!

In order to eliminate all outside fundraising, we are asking each family for a small donation to the PTA. Membership dues are \$10.00/person and we asking for an additional donation of \$20.00/family. Of course, you are welcome to donate as much as you want or are able. The additional donation is tax deductible.

There will be a membership contest for the first month of school. The homeroom at each grade level with the most PTA members will win a popsicle party!

Logo Sales

Even though we won't know the school colors or the logo until the students have voted and chosen the school mascot, the PTA is taking pre-orders on AGW Apparel. Don't miss this opportunity to get all of your AGW gear! Check out the PTA page for the logo order form or pick one up at the PTA table at Open House.

Upcoming PTA Events

Sept. 10– Buffalo Wild Wings night, 5-8 p.m., Bear and Middletown locations– Come and enjoy a great meal with friends!

Sept. 18– PTA Meeting, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Learn how to use the Home Access Center to look at your child's academic progress and meet with coaches/advisors of many extracurricular activities to get your child involved! Free childcare for younger children and refreshments will be available.

RideShare's School Pool Program is Ready to Help You!

Parents, do you need help with your school commute? Would you like to find someone willing to share in the day-to-day driving responsibilities of your children? If so, consider signing up for RideShare

Delaware's School Pool program. School Pool is a free and voluntary car-pool matching service provided by DART First State. Simply provide the School Pool folks with the specifics of your commute and they'll search their program database for other school parents sharing your commute pattern. Matches (if available) are provided via mail or email, and then it's up to you to get your rideshare arrangement going! Call the School Pool office at 1-888-RIDE-MATCH and/or visit www.ridesharedelaware.org to learn more or to register for the program.

Construction details about Alfred G. Waters Middle School

111,000 sq. foot building

28-month construction cycle

766,000 yards of dirt removed

900 cubic yards of concrete

7+ miles of piping

2,460 gallons of paint

54, 744 floor tiles

1,200 light fixtures

12+ miles of wiring

450 tons of steel

190 windows

149 interior signs

To find out more information about Dr. Alfred G. Waters, go to the school website, www.agwaters.org, click on about us and then click on Dr. Alfred G. Waters.



Principal's Message, Mr. Jim Comegys

Wow... It is hard to believe the school year is over 3 weeks old. I want to first thank all of you for your congratulations and well wishes during my first months as the Principal of Alfred G. Waters Middle School. It was a great opening of the school year and has been a wonderful start working with you and our students. I want to thank all of you for your patience and understanding with us, which is a great school thanks to our parents, teachers, and students. Please take time to check out our website at www.agwaters.org and especially the parents' site.

We will also start our Academic Academy for students who need support to meet the standard for DSTP testing. Students will be invited by mail in the next few weeks. If your child is invited, please seriously consider joining this program. We will provide additional support to help students meet the standard in Redding and Math during this after school program.



Assistant Principal's Words, Dr. Laura Troxell

We hope you enjoy this first issue of the school newsletter, The Shark's Tale for the 2008-2009 school year. In order to keep our parents and families informed and up to date, the newsletter will be sent home via e-mail groups, as well as located on the Alfred G. Waters website, www.agwaters.org and the school district web site, www.apposchooldistrict.org.

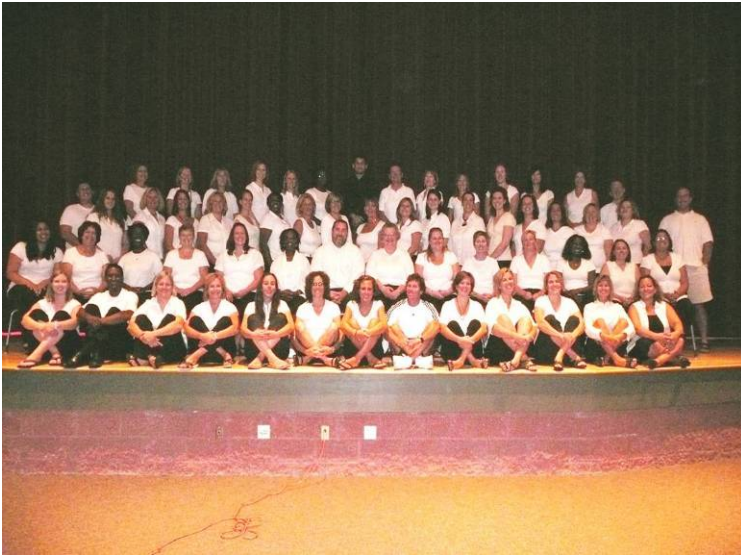
When you enter the office, you will find a computer in the main office for all parents who come to visit the school and volunteer to sign in. Visitors enter their name and reason for visiting and an automatic name tag is printed to wear. This is all part of our continuing effort to ensure school safety. Parents need to come to the office and sign out and in their students who need to leave for any reason during the school day.

Counselor's Corner: Ms. Donaldson, Ms. Burbage

Happy School Year! We are very excited to be working with the students of Alfred G. Waters Middle School! Mrs. Burbage will be working with all 6th Grade students and those students on the 7 Red Team. Mrs. Donaldson will be working with all 8th Grade students and those students on the 7 Blue Team. Our first order of business is presenting a bullying lesson to all homerooms. These lessons will be completed by the end of September. If you have any questions or concerns, please e-mail us. Altamese Burbage@appo.k12.de.us. Lisa. Donaldson@appo.k12.de.us.

Pictured to the left are counselors, Altamese Burbage and Lisa Donaldson.





The faculty and staff of Alfred G. Waters Middle School came together for a group photo on August 19, 2008. You will always be able to identify a staff member as they will be wearing a photo ID with their picture on a black and white Alfred G. Waters lanyard. The staff were served breakfast on August 19, 2008 by the AGW PTA and began their first official day as staff of the Appoquinimink School District's third middle school.

The custodial staff worked hard all summer to clean the school and move all the items of the staff into their new classrooms. Teachers worked in the classrooms all week to get ready for the students to arrive. There

was an open house for 7th and 8th grade students and parents on August 13, 2008 and a 6th grade open house on August 20, 2008.

Monday, August 25, 2008 was an exciting day as the buses pulled into the school with our students who were thrilled with their new school. The students have pride in their school and we want to express our thanks to all the parents of the school district for passing the referendum to build this wonderful school.

The faculty and staff of Alfred G. Waters are proud to teach your students and express our thanks to each and every one of you for your support of our high standards to help each one of our students reach their highest potential.

Welcome to the 2008-2009 New School Year

The Appoquinimink School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, age, disability, marital status, national origin, or other legally protected categories in its educational programs, activities, employment, or student admissions policies or practices. Inquires regarding compliance with the above can be directed to:

Section 504

Contact Kittie Rehrig, Supervisor of Student Services, Appoquinimink School District, 313 South Fifth Street, Box 4010, Odessa, DE 19730-4010. Telephone (302) 376-4111

Section 504 Coordinator's Responsibilities: To coordinate the Appoquinimink School District's efforts to comply with the disability discrimination laws.

Title IX

Contact Matt Fallis, Director of Personnel, Appoquinimink School District, 313 South Fifth Street, Box 4010, Odessa, DE 19730-4010. Telephone (302) 376-4275

Title IX Coordinator's Responsibilities: To coordinate the Appoquinimink School District's efforts to comply with and carry out the District's responsibilities under Title IX, including any investigation of any complaint alleging noncompliance with Title IX or alleging actions which would be prohibited by Title IX.

