



# The Shark's Tale

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## New Student Council at Alfred G. Waters

The first Student Council has been elected for Alfred G. Waters Middle School. Homeroom representatives and alternate representatives have been elected from each homeroom. Mr. John Camponelli, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science teacher, is excited to begin leading the Student Council this year. The first meeting is Wednesday October 15, 2008 from 2:15-3:30. The homeroom representatives and alternates are as follows:

- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Rep. Drew Sanclemente, Alt. Rep. Anthony Wilson (Ms. Weir)
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Rep. April Wilson, Alt. Rep. A.J. DeRosso (Mrs. Koster)
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Rep. Angie Hackett, Alt. Rep. Austin Fox (Mrs. Phillips)
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Rep. Julia Smith, Alt. Rep. Rachel Wagner (Mrs. Fry/Mrs. Colazzo)
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Rep. Caroline Gassert, Alt. Rep. Russell Harris (Mrs. Shetzler)
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Rep. David Ellis, Alt. Re. Mitchell Land (Mrs. Griffith/Mrs. Brown)
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Rep. Eryn Cahoon, Alt. Rep. Chris Gillie (Mrs. Livingston)
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Rep. Sydney Burlew, Alt. Rep. Anthony DeVincentis (Mrs. Conner/Mr. Veit)
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Rep. Julia Mulligan, Alt. Rep. Taylor Nuneviller (Ms. Fox)
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Rep. Cindy Munoz, Alt. Rep. Ceara Dougherty (Mrs. Conway)
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Rep. Melissa Haskins, Alt. Rep. Jonathon Arot (Ms. Curcuru)
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Rep. Vincent Gabriele, Alt. Rep. Erica Chandler (Mrs. Camponelli)
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Rep. Josh Smith, Alt. Rep. Connor Cochran (Ms. Hodge)
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Rep. Jilliene Powers, Alt. Rep. Kelsey Fromal (Ms. Hazlett)
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Rep. Emily Donahue, Alt. Rep. Ben Janocha (Mrs. Green)
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Rep. Katelyn Beckett, Alt. Rep. Noah Lucas (Ms. Neubert)
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Rep. Bella Rizzo, Alt. Rep. Kiara Carrier (Mrs. Churchill)
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Rep. Gabriel Parag, Alt. Rep. Reilly Christie (Mrs. Heckscher)
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Rep. Leonard Warner, Alt. Rep. Taylor Bond (Mr. Camponelli)
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Rep. Nick Ratel, Alt. Rep. Nicole Smith (Ms. Davis)
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Rep. Nick Cornier, Alt. Rep. Tyler Haushalter (Miss Harrison)
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Rep. Raquel Blaudford, Alt. Rep. Becky Tigani (Mrs. Woodson)
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Rep. Thomas Morgan, Alt. Rep. Brittny Mundie (Mr. Gamble)
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Rep. Zubin Hussain, Alt. Rep. Katherine Taylor (Mrs. Brown)
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Rep. Dana Matthews, Alt. Rep. Carl Gatling (Ms. Gove)

## ALFRED G. WATERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

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The FFA is a national youth organization that strives to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. The Alfred G. Waters Middle School FFA Chapter was chartered on September 15, 2008, and currently has 32 paid members. Our officer team is as follows: Samantha Roberts, President; Kathleen Nocket, Vice President; Princess Diaz, Secretary; Greg Hughes, Treasurer; Alexis Cloud, Reporter; Michael Capotrio, Sentinel; and David Bobon, Junior Advisor. We look forward to an exciting year, with activities such as pumpkin carving, scarecrow and ornament making, and preparing for leadership and career development contests in the spring. FFA advisor is Agriculture Teacher, Ms. Kelli Lafferty.

Officers have been selected for the AGW Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society, President Kendall Mahoney, Vice-President Courtney Bopp, Secretary, Courtney Martin, Treasurer, Taylor Bond. The new chapter has over 53 seventh and eighth grade members who came from RMS and EMMS. NJHS advisors are seventh grade teachers, Ms. Jenna Camponelli and Ms. Christine Curcuru. Students have already begun to volunteer at our sister schools Cedar Lane Early Childhood Center and Cedar Lane Elementary School.



*AGW: Attitude, Goals and Wisdom*

As parents, we all want our children to be cooperative and responsible, but sometimes they break the rules or do not live up to our expectations. We can use discipline to help our children grow to be responsible, cooperative and caring people. To help them become more responsible we need to give them some control over their lives. This may sound a little frightening, but giving children some choices within limits gives them positive control. Instead of telling children what to do, try setting limits and give your child a choice within those limits. Setting limits gives you, the parent, control and giving choices gives your child some control.

For instance you might say:

You may go out with your friends after dinner if you agree to get your homework done by 5 pm.

If your child wants to paint their bedroom, you might say "You can help me paint your bedroom if you gather the painting supplies from the garage". Or you can find something else to do. You decide.

Many times in our busy hectic lives, it may seem easier for parents to be "in charge" and to just tell our children what to do by giving orders. However, when we take the time to set reasonable limits and give our children choices within those limits we are strengthening our children's ability to be responsible.

Karen Burgess (Karen.Burgess@appo.k12.de.us) and Janice Johnson (Janice.Johnson@appo.k12.de.us)

Alfred G. Waters Interventionist



## PTA News from Ms. Christy Payne, PTA President

The PTA has had a very strong start to the year thanks to all of the AGW families and staff! We have survived two dances and a skating night and there is so much more to come...here are a few things to look forward to:

1. Our next PTA meeting is Wednesday, October 23rd from 6:30-7:30 p.m. The topic will be "Do you PBS?" Information to help you understand the Positive Behavior Support program, how to use it at home and student success plans. Lisa Donaldson, school counselor, will be our guest speaker. Refreshments, raffle for prizes and free childcare! Bring your boxtops to the meeting and receive PBS tickets for your student.
2. Gift card sales have begun! Check out the PTA website on the "Easy Fundraisers" page for the sale dates and an order form. The idea is simple- order all gift cards through the PTA and we earn a percentage of the sales. You still pay face value of the card, but we get money too! That is easy! And remember, gift cards aren't only for gifts. You can purchase gift cards for your everyday needs as well. If you know you spend \$50 a week on gas, purchase gas gift cards to pay with. You help the PTA and it can help your budget as well!
3. Save the date!!!! We are sponsoring a huge event- the Superbowl Ball on January 23rd from 6:30-11:30 p.m. at the Middletown Fire Hall. This is for parents, staff and friends- great food, cool drinks and fun music to dance the night away! There be a huge silent auction. If you own a business or work for a business who would like to make a donation of prizes or auction items, please contact Christy Payne at [christine.payne@appo.k12.de.us](mailto:christine.payne@appo.k12.de.us) or 373-2662. This will be a must attend event for everyone! Think about reserving a table for you and your friends early- look for ticket orders coming home soon!

Our pledge is to not have to resort to outside fundraising. In order to be successful, we need you to do all the little things to help: sign up your Safeway card for AG Waters, send in box tops, send in used ink cartridges and cell phones, eat with us at restaurant nights...everything makes a difference! Now we also have a school ID for Super G and Giant foods. Go to [www.giantfood/aplus](http://www.giantfood/aplus) and click on "Register your card." Our school ID is 05645. Thank you for your support!



Alfred G. Waters officially has a chapter of Business Professionals of America. BPA is a national organization open to 6<sup>th</sup> grade students at the local level and 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at the National level. The programs of BPA create opportunities for students to develop effective leadership skills, improve students' communication skills, provide students opportunities to apply skills in practical applications and motivate students to become positive contributors in business and their communities. Students may join BPA any time during the year. We are 40 strong and growing. The students are excited and ready for the challenge. We have held 2 meetings to date and everyone is motivated to make the AGW Chapter of BPA the best middle school chapter in the State. At our September 29<sup>th</sup> meeting, Brian Kelleher – who is the State BPA Treasurer and a junior at Pencader Charter, met with the students and provided insight into BPA through his eyes. He presented them with generalities of BPA and more important he told them how BPA has influenced his life since middle school. The students were engaged with his presentation and peppered him with questions. :

The officers that will be leading BPA for the 2008-2009 school year are:

- President: Courtney Bopp
- Vice President: Nicholas Bonaventure
- Secretary: Brittany Wynne
- Treasurer: Emily Smith
- Historian: David Gardner

### College Planning Starts NOW!

Appoquinimink's Parents Academy is offering a FREE workshop on College Financial Planning geared toward grade K-12 parents. With the help of trained professional Meg Tallman, we'll review the concepts every parent needs to understand in order to pay for college without sabotaging their own ability to retire. Topics include:

- How college can become a retirement problem
- How college inflation impacts college costs
- The four ways to pay for college
- The four types of financial aid
- The key to financing college

**When:** October 13  
**Time:** 6:30-7:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Appoquinimink Training Center, 313 S. Sixth Street in Odessa  
**Directions:** Enter the Training Center from Route 13 S., just after the intersection of Route 299).  
**Note:** Child care will be available. Advance registration is not required.

### Principal's Message, Mr. Jim Comegys

Hello parents, I know many of you are getting tired of our Alert Now calls, our emails about the webpage, our newsletters, our mailings and more, but we are very proud of our efforts to keep you informed. We hope you have gotten your home access information by now and you child's interims went home on Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>. Keep in mind you should be getting information about parent conferences from your child's teachers. Please contact them directly with questions. It is essential to us to be pro-active with our parents and students, so please ask questions. I also want to encourage you to join our PTA this year. They are doing a lot of great work to include parents in a variety of school activities. A special thanks to the PTA for supporting our staff shirts-THEY LOOK GREAT, school dances and events and for giving so freely of your time! If you have ideas or thoughts please let them know! Several important dates are coming up fast- sixth grade DSTP testing is the week of Oct 20-24<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for being so involved and supportive this year. The staff, students and parents of Alfred G. Waters are a true asset!



### Assistant Principal's Words, Dr. Laura Troxell

During the month of September we had two events to celebrate positive behavior at AGW. The first Spirit Olympics was held on September 19, 2008. Students dressed in the colors of their academic teams competed in events to win the grade level Spirit Shark. Congratulations to all the students and teachers for a great event. The Olympic spirit events are planned for once each marking period.

Thanks to the AGW Student Crew who wrote and acted in our Dress Code Presentation, What Not to Wear to School. It was seen by all grade levels in an assembly on September 24, 2008. Look for the video presentation on the web. Check out the Shark Tank on the AGW website to see all the recent school podcasts and videos.

The Code Of Conduct has been reviewed with all students by the administrative team during the month of September as well as the Dress Code and Student Agenda Book. All students are expected to follow the school rules and be responsible for their behavior, words and actions.

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

Happy October! What exactly does my Guidance Counselor do?? This was just one of the questions that students at AGW were able to answer after playing a classroom Jeopardy game with Mrs. Burbage and Mrs. Donaldson. Students had the opportunity to learn more about their counselor, why she might need to see them and why they might need to see her. Red Ribbon Week, a week dedicated to promoting healthy lifestyles and being drug and alcohol free, will be celebrated from October 27 – 31. Take a look at our "Counselors Corner" section of the school website for more information about our guidance services and upcoming school wide events and activities. If you have any questions, contact us at [lisa.donaldson@appo.k12.de.us](mailto:lisa.donaldson@appo.k12.de.us), [altamese.burbage@appo.k12.de.us](mailto:altamese.burbage@appo.k12.de.us).





Principal Jim Comegys and Zack Tilley display their school spirit at the first AGW spirit assembly held on September 19, 2008. Each team made a banner as you can see on the right from the 6 White team as well as writing and practicing a cheer. Mr. Comegys is wearing the AGW staff shirt that was purchased by the AGW PTA. Thanks to our great PTA members for their support. Students just got their colored lanyards to wear along with their school photo ID. Students and staff wear these while in school for school safety.

Catch the video about the school spirit assembly that is in the Shark Tank on the school website, [www.agwaters.org](http://www.agwaters.org).

Two wonderful school dances were held in September sponsored by the PTA and well attended by our students. Videos of the dances will be coming soon, so check the Shark Tank often.

AGW's PBS program is up and running. Students are earning blue PBS tickets for displaying Attitude, Goals and Wisdom. Upcoming October Events include:

Weekly Drawing 10/3: PE Teacher for a day

Weekly Drawing 10/9: Photo with Friends

Spirit Day 10/15: Sports Day

Weekly Drawing 10/17: Front of the Lunch Line Pass

Weekly Drawing 10/24: \$10 Bookfair Coupon

Weekly Drawing 10/31: AGW Logo Item

Monthly Drawing\_10/31: Movie Basket

Check out the PBS section of AGW's school website!!!



## Community Notification

A few years ago, the House of Representatives made a decision that schools should assist with notifying the community regarding sex offenders. Community notification is the primary responsibility of law enforcement. State and local police agencies send to public schools written notification of registered sex offenders who reside in the community. Each school in the Appoquinimink School District, as well as District Office, will place the notifications in a binder. The binder will be located in the main office and will be available for review upon request by adults and juveniles with adult supervision.

In addition to the information being available in public schools, the community can go to the Delaware State Police web site at [http://sexoffender.dsp.delaware.gov/sor\\_search.htm](http://sexoffender.dsp.delaware.gov/sor_search.htm). By law, all adults or juveniles who are convicted or adjudicated of certain types of sex offenses are registered.

Parents and guardians should use this information in an age appropriate way that helps children with personal safety but does not overwhelm the child. Prevent Child Abuse Delaware, a local nonprofit agency, has developed a list of safety tips to assist parents/guardians in helping their child(ren) feel safe:

- Review safety rules for your home – tell your child not to answer the door when you are not home and establish a plan for answering the telephone.
  - Make a list with your child of three safe grown-ups he/she can talk to if afraid or in trouble and you are not there.
  - Talk with your child about what places are safe to visit in your community and which are not.
  - Review with your child the four private places which are the mouth, the breasts, the genitalia, and the buttocks. Explain that no one should touch these places unless they are helping to keep the child healthy (exam by a doctor) or clean (bathing).
  - Encourage your child to tell you if someone talks to or touches him/her in a way that makes them feel bad or that he/she doesn't like.
  - Encourage open discussion with your child about his/her willingness to talk to grown-ups in your family about the things that bother him/her.
  - Determine if your child knows that the grown-ups in your family will listen to him/her. Ask yourself honestly if this is true. Do you and other adults in your family really listen to the children in your care?
  - Tell your child that it is not the child's fault if someone tries to bother him/her or touch him/her in a way they don't like.
  - Let your child know how special you think they are, encourage him/her to think of themselves as a person worthy of respect, who also respects others. Treat and talk with your child in a way that conveys your respect.
- **If you would like further information on how to keep your child safe, you can speak with the school guidance counselor or contact Prevent Child Abuse Delaware at 254-4611.**

