

### DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION 21-Day Equity Challenge

Allendale Columbia School is committed to fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion in our community, and we are proud to be one of the more than 400 local organizations to participate in the United Way of Greater Rochester's 21-Day Equity Challenge. Students, parents, faculty, administrators, and staff from AC participated in the Equity Challenge, which covered a wide range of topics including basic definitions of bias and privilege as well as an overview of the challenges of talking about race. Education was a key focus of the series and included an examination of the economic and racial segregation of our local schools. It also offered critical tips on how to talk to children about race. Additionally, AC hosted a series of equity events for our community to come together and reflect on these valuable resources as we work toward achieving our equity goals.



### Eyes that Kiss in the Corners



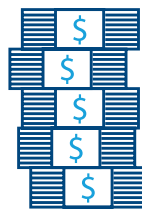
AC Lower Schoolers met (virtually) with New York Times Best Selling children's author Joanna Ho. In preparation for her visit, students read her book "Eyes that Kiss in the Corners", a story of self-love and empowerment. During the visit, students were able to ask questions that lead to enriching conversations, celebrating individual beauty and confidence.

### Youth Healing Hate project

AC students in grades 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 had the opportunity to be trained in restorative practices by Veronica Rush (Center for Youth) and Qawan Bollar (CCSI) and participate in a two-hour training with Chyna Moorehead from the Gandhi Institute. Students were trained to be able to lead peers in establishing equitable community norms and assist in peer mediations when norms are violated. They also wrote and received a grant from the Gandhi Institute for a space where community-building circles can be held regularly to cultivate a deeper sense of belonging at AC.

### AC's Fundraising Efforts Continue to Reach Historic Levels

Allendale Columbia School's fundraising efforts continue to thrive for non-capital campaign years, hitting the \$1 million mark for fiscal year 2020-2021. General participation in giving by both parents and alumni, however, was down last fiscal year after rising in 2019-2020. It is critically important to increase the number of donors to AC in order to reach future fundraising goals that will ensure the School's continued financial sustainability. Donations to the Annual Fund are designated as unrestricted for school use but are primarily directed to AC's greatest areas of need: student scholarships and faculty/staff salaries. These areas are becoming more important as the School's enrollment increases, bringing with it additional requests for student financial aid and the need to hire more teachers. AC is clearly in a growth mode, but in order to fuel that growth, fundraising must keep pace.



### Celebration of 130 Years of AC!

This year, we celebrated like never before! Our school community came together on May 21st for AC's first-ever virtual celebration event, where Interim Head of School Shannon Baudo, incoming Head of School Dr. Glen Pinder, and Board Chair Ann Balderston led us through a look back at AC's incredible 130-year history as well as a look forward at what is to come in the future of our school. The celebration also included an online silent auction and remote live auction, featuring nearly 70 one-of-a-kind items and experiences. Together, through this event our community raised \$136,000, nearly three times more than anticipated!



The AC community celebrated the school's 130-year history through its first-ever, virtual celebration event, which raised \$136,000.



AC administrators, board members, and new Head of School, Dr. Pinder, hand out picnic baskets to-go at carline for the Come Together Celebration.



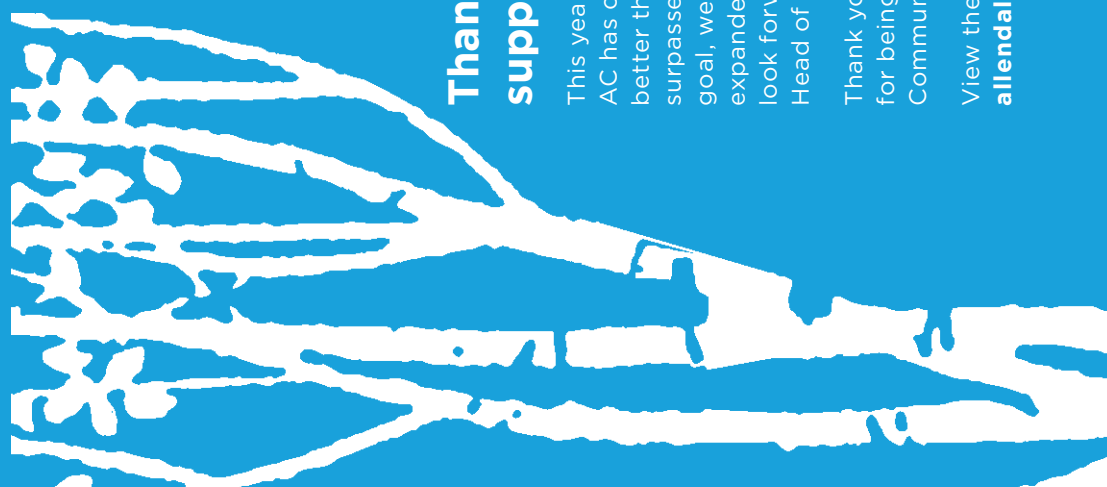
Allendale Columbia School  
519 Allens Creek Road  
Rochester, NY 14618

### Thank you for your support

This year was like no other, but AC has come out stronger and better than ever! Together, we have surpassed our \$1 million Annual Fund goal, we have increased enrollment, expanded our programming, and we look forward to welcoming in new Head of School Dr. Glen Pinder.

Thank you for your support and for being a vital part of the AC Community!

View the 2020-2021 Annual Report at [allendalecolumbia.org/annualreport](http://allendalecolumbia.org/annualreport)



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### Allendale Columbia

School



Cover

### A Year Like No Other



Dear Members of the AC Community,

At the end of a school year like no other before it, we reflect on how our school community, once again, came together to support one another, overcome challenges, and stand strong as one AC family. In looking back over the past 10 months, I am humbled, inspired, and truly proud of what was accomplished together on AC's campus in-person when many schools in our area and across the world were trying to navigate a more isolated and remote way of learning.

### Together we've...

- Provided safe and engaging in-person learning five days a week to all of our students since Septemeber 2020
- Increased enrollment
- Made plans to expand our Nursery and Little School programs to accommodate interest and current wait lists
- Increased our faculty and staff salaries
- Expanded our work and programmatic offerings in diversity and inclusion across all Divisions
- Carefully managed our financial aid budget and offered \$2.67 million in support
- Made more than \$400,000 of deferred maintenance repairs and improvements to our facilities and grounds, including a complete roof repair of the main building
- Begun a strategic planning process for the next 3-5 years for AC
- Hired a new Head of School who will be joining an incredible team of administrators, faculty, and staff
- Surpassed \$1 million in fundraising dollars

In this edition of "What We Accomplished Together," we look back at this unique school year and share some of the school programs and projects that continued to bring our students, faculty, staff, and school community together, doing what we do best at AC - supporting our students in a multitude of ways as they foster a true love of learning.

It has been my honor to serve as your Interim Head of School this year and to witness what our school community can accomplish together.

*Shannon M. Baudo*

Shannon M. Baudo  
Interim Head of School

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## Pre-Primary School

Little School, Nursery, Pre-K

### Launching AC's Little School



In September 2020, we opened the doors to AC's first-ever 18 month-2 year old program, AC Little School. Ten students under the age of three years old joined us each day learning through our Reggio Emilia curriculum, where learning is student-driven and there is an emphasis on exploration,

experiential learning, and utilizing nature and the world around us to make connections. From exploring AC's nature trails and sensory-driven playground to educational units about animals, insects, and plants, our youngest students are engaged and empowered every single day at AC. Our program was so successful, we have a waiting list for the upcoming school year and now have plans for expansion!

### Fairies, gnomes, and giants - oh my!

AC nursery schoolers were hard at work this past spring creating a fairy garden. After reading many different gardening, construction, and fairy books, each student used their spatial awareness skills to create a blueprint of their new outdoor space. Raking the mulch and moving stumps, sticks, and rocks around challenged their gross motor skills. Their individual artistry truly shined while assembling wind chimes, painting rocks, and constructing miniature furniture. Skills in creative expression and storytelling skyrocketed as our three and four year olds took on the roles of fairies, gnomes, and giants during pretend play.



Students work on decorations for the new fairy garden in the outdoor space by their classroom.



From drab to fab! AC nursery schoolers use their creativity to transform this outdoor space.

## Lower School

Kindergarten - Grade 5



### Kindergarten creates outdoor classroom for all and honors faculty

AC kindergarten students put in some hard work in the courtyard during their final project-based learning unit. They weeded, swept, and planted flowers and then added tree stump seats for a natural outdoor classroom! Students identified the plants in the courtyard with the plant identifying app, Seek, and then researched the plants and decided to create garden stakes with the plant names.

Thanks to Ms. Oliveri, the students were able to create beautiful wind chimes and garden stakes from clay. In addition, the kindergartners learned about the process of firing clay in the kiln and had a blast glazing clay creations and seeing the final products.

The children were very excited to welcome everyone to the courtyard and even designed letters using the laser cutter that spell "All Are Welcome." These amazing letters were glued to "tree cookies" and placed near the doorway. It sure looks like a happy place to be.

As an added surprise, the class also dedicated a portion of the space to retiring Lower School teacher of 40 years, Randy Northrup. Every Lower School student and faculty member decorated a rock (approximately 200 rocks!) to create the "Randy Rocks Garden" in his honor.

We hope everyone at AC feels welcome to read, meditate, play, and more in this special redesigned space for years to come!



Retiring teacher Randy Northrup poses by the rock garden dedicated in his honor.

## Middle School

Grades 6 - 8

### Sixth grade "me, you, we" retreat

Sixth grade students participated in a three day retreat in April centered around the themes of "me, you, we". This retreat gave them the opportunity to step away from their Chromebooks and engage in activities, including slackline, obstacle courses, STEM activities, reflective writing, and group discussions around various topics.



Sixth-grade students take a break from their screens to get outside and try their skills on the slackline.



Sixth-grade students working together on a STEM challenge.

### Empty Bowls goes virtual

For the sixth year in a row, seventh and eighth grade ceramic students hosted Empty Bowls, an international grassroots fundraising project aimed at addressing food insecurity. The event, typically held as an in-person silent auction, was hosted as a virtual event this year. The auction featured approximately 110 innovative, handmade pieces created by local artists, AC alums, faculty/staff, and students in kindergarten through 12th grade, and they raised \$2,307.95, which was donated to Save the Children. It was truly a community effort and a wonderful experience for all who were involved.



## Upper School

Grades 9 - 12

### AC launches new diploma programs

This year AC proudly launched two new diploma programs: the Creativity & Entrepreneurship Engagement diploma and the STEM Engagement diploma. These diplomas are the first of their kind offered in the Rochester region and are awarded to students in addition to their traditional diploma. These innovative programs allow students to dive deeper into understanding and investigating their interests and offer a personalized experience that is designed to provide choice, autonomy, and purpose. Both diplomas are offered through AC's Centers for Impact, which challenge students to think and work in new ways to better prepare them for the world they will inherit, shape, and lead.



As the first-ever recipient of the new AC STEM Engagement diploma, Sarah Ash, Class of 2021, earned the distinction of AC STEM Engagement Scholar and AC Global Engagement Scholar.

### AC students get real-world production experience with WROC



AC students filming for the Best Buddies of Western New York's virtual gala.

Despite the unusual challenges of this past year, AC students continued to embrace opportunities to apply their learning in the real world. This year's AC Production and Design students collaborated with WROC to produce the Best Buddies of Western New York chapter's largest fundraiser of the year. The students were responsible for creating and producing vignettes, commercials, and promotional social media content for the virtual gala. Their work culminated in a 30-minute, pre-recorded program that aired on WROC. The gala raised more than \$35,000 for programming across Western New York.

### Hats off to the Class of 2021!



Allendale Columbia's Class of 2021 plans to further their education in all corners of the United States, including:

- American University
- Boston College
- Colby College
- Connecticut College
- Empire Beauty School
- Fordham University
- Johns Hopkins University
- Monroe Community College
- Nazareth College
- New York University
- Northeastern University
- Purdue University
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- St. Bonaventure University
- St. Lawrence University
- SUNY at Albany
- SUNY College of Technology at Alfred
- Trinity College
- University at Buffalo
- University of California-Irvine
- University of California-San Diego
- University of California-Santa Barbara
- University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
- University of Richmond
- University of Rochester
- Washington University in St. Louis