

# Amherst Middle School



## AMS Weekly Email (1/11/2019)

**Next Amherst School Board Meeting: ASB Working Meeting-Monday, January 14 at 6pm in the at the SAU/Brick School.**

### Calendar:

January 11: Movie Night sponsored by Student Leadership and Service, 6:15pmpm  
January 16: PTA meeting, 6pm Wilkins Library  
January 17: AMS Geography Bee, 8am  
January 18: School Dance, 7pm, grades 6, 7, 8  
January 21: **NO School**, MLK Day  
January 22: **Late Start Day**, school begins at 9:25am  
Jan. 28-Feb. 8: NWEA testing  
February 6-8: Field Trips, Gr. 5  
February 8: Winter Carnival, grades 5/6, 2:20-4pm  
February 11: Winter Sports Banquet  
February 12: **Late Start Day**, school begins at 9:25am  
February 13: PTA General Meeting, 9am  
February 15: Semi-Formal (optional) Dance, grades 7 and 8, 7pm  
February 25-March 1: Winter Recess, NO School  
March 11: PTA General Meeting, 6pm  
March 12: **Late Start Day**, school begins at 9:25am  
March 14-17: AMS Theater Club Presents, *Shrek Jr!*

Dear Families,

I hope this note finds you well and warm on this chilly January day! While we've only just returned from the holiday break, students have jumped back into the swing of things in the New Year. Just yesterday, we held our annual school wide Spelling Bee. Two finalists from every grade competed for the opportunity to move on to the state competition. Finalists included Evia Landvatter, Zachary Elmer, Meagan Bunch, Anna Brammer-Depuy, Brett Bouvier, Jackson Hipp, Autumn Fichera, and Miraya Ghosh. Students competed in front of an audience of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Not an easy task! After thirteen rounds, Jackson Hipp, spelled the winning word "obsidian" to capture the 2018-2019 AMS Spelling Bee Champion title. Jackson will go on to the local finals for the New Hampshire Union Leader Spelling Bee at the Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. We want to congratulate all those who participated, and we wish Jackson all the best as he competes at the next level. Next Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, we will hold our annual school wide Geography Bee. These competitions are just one way we can showcase our students and the building is filled with other showcases of student work, projects, and new learning. Our students show tremendous pride in their work and we hope that they are sharing with you as well! While they might be a little quiet at the dinner table when you ask about their day, don't underestimate the power of your questions! Asking questions like, "What was one new thing you learned today, what was the most interesting idea you discussed, and even what was one thing you would change about today," can be powerful catalysts for conversation. Even if tonight the conversation is short, don't give up!

In the new year, AMS will continue to work on our school wide goals through our late starts, curriculum meetings, instructional conversations, and even assessments of our physical building. We continue to practice and refine our emergency procedures as well. Just today, we practiced a successful lockdown drill and conducted an audit of our facilities with Homeland Security. The focus is truly on the whole child with goals addressing both academics, social emotional health, and the safety of all in our community of learners. Our

school mission is to “Fill our students “tool boxes” so that whatever path they choose they have the opportunity to traverse that road. In order to accomplish this mission, we have four main goals:

- Ensure that students & staff are healthy, safe, & supported emotionally, physically, & socially.
- Design, implement, & support a competency-based curriculum anchored in performance assessment.
- Develop & implement a system to better communicate student progress through the differentiation of process & product grades.
- Ensure that our facilities & processes promote a safe environment for learning through capacity building, training, & strategic maintenance.

Through these goals we will continue to work to ensure that every child is healthy, safe, supported, challenged, and engaged. Thank you for partnering with us so that each student can reach their greatest potential!

Regards,  
Dr. Bernasconi

### **TONIGHT: Movie Night, Friday January 11**

Student Leadership and Service is sponsoring Movie Night, next Friday January 11.

Time: 6:30 – 8:30, Doors open at 6:15pm

Movie Choices: Wonder, Incredibles 2, Small Foot

Wear your pajamas and bring a folding chair, blanket, or sleeping bag if you like

Younger siblings are welcome to attend if accompanied by a parent

Suggested donation \$3

Snacks and drinks available for purchase

### **Chess Club**

Chess Club is beginning again and meets on Wednesdays afterschool. All grades and all levels are welcome! Chess Club meets with Mrs. Epstein afterschool in the library from 2:30-3:30pm. Meeting dates can be found on the [website](#).

### **Intramural Basketball for Grades 5 & 6**

Intramural basketball for students in grades 5 and 6 will begin afterschool on January 29 from 2:30-3:45pm. Intramurals are drop in/play when you can/no fee activities...Dates are Jan. 29, 30 and Feb. 1,4,7,11,12,13,18 and 21. Dates are subject to change, so listen to announcements!

### **Substitute Information Session**

Have you wondered about being a substitute in one of our SAU 39 schools? There will be an information session on Tuesday, January 22 from 11am-noon at the SAU office in the community room. Please email Maureen DeGrenier at [mdegrenier@sprise.com](mailto:mdegrenier@sprise.com) if you are interested in joining us for the informational session.

### **Free Screening of Documentary, Resilience**

Please join us for the public viewing of *Resilience, The Biology of Stress & The Science of Hope*...The free viewing is on Sunday, January 13 at 4:30pm in the Wilton Town Hall Theater. For more details, see the [flyer](#).

### **Join the Conversation: Preventing Vaping, Marijuana, Rx Drug and Alcohol Misuse**

Town Hall Meeting: on January 23, 2019, 6-8:30pm at Milford Town Hall. To register: <https://conta.cc/2EGjpmT>

### **Late Start Day now on January 22**

The late start day for staff professional development has been moved to January 22. School will begin at 9:25am on Tuesday, January 22.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Collecting Your Greeting Cards**

Grade 7 Math is in need of new or used GREETING CARDS of any kind! Don't throw away your holiday cards after the season's over, instead drop them in the office and we will put them to good use. Our students use them to make ICOSAHEDRONS around the holidays! Thanks in advance!

### **Important AMS Reminders:**

Check out our [website](#) to see some friendly reminders about procedures for absences, tardy arrivals, bus passes, afterschool plans, signing up for **SNOW** day cancellations, etc.

## **Theater Club**

SAVE THE DATE: The AMS Theater Club cast and crew have been working hard since October to prepare and to share the story of everyone's favorite Ogre. The cast has been busy learning songs, dances and blocking for the March performances while the crew are working tirelessly on production aspects including costumes, sets, props, photojournalism and brand ambassadors. Tickets can be found starting February 12th at Amherst Middle School, Moulton's, The Homestead and The Black Forest Cafe in Amherst NH and Toadstool in Milford NH. Join AMS Theater Club in the swamp on March 14th, 15th, and 16th at 7pm and March 16th and 17th at 2pm!

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Yearbook**

- **Order Information** Order your 8th Grade Yearbook: <https://commpe.pictavo.com/PictavoSchool/FindSchool> Parents should click on the link, type in our school code of 77801 and click LETS GO.

## **Amherst PTA**

The Amherst PTA agenda for our January 16 meeting will include Board of Selectmen, Adam Steel, and Brian Coogan (Chair of the Joint Facilities Committee) speaking on budgets and Warrant Articles. The meeting will be held in the Wilkins School Library at 6:00 PM.

Tickets for the "Under the Stars" Daughter's Choice Dance are currently available on MySchoolAnywhere. There is also a form to print and send to school (website below). All girls at CW and AMS are invited to attend with their father or special role model. The dance will be on 1/26 from 6-8pm at Wilkins (snow date 2/2). Online signups for refreshments and volunteers are on MSA.

Great job to everyone who auditioned for Mulan Jr! There are many ways to support this spring fundraiser. Purchasing an advertisement in the playbill, working on stage and costumes, and coming out to see a performance all support the enrichment opportunities that the Amherst PTA can continue to offer our students.

We're always looking for parents interested in joining as committee members, committee chairs, and executive board members. Email for more information.

[Amherstptanh@gmail.com](mailto:Amherstptanh@gmail.com)  
[www.amherstnhpta.org](http://www.amherstnhpta.org)

## **Community News**

**Souhegan Valley Lacrosse:** Middle school players looking to work on your game before tryouts this spring can come to SVL Winter Skills...for details and to register go to [www.SouheganValleyLacrosse.com](http://www.SouheganValleyLacrosse.com) to register.

**Amherst Town Library: January Programs:** The Amherst Town Library has lots of children and family programming for our community members. Check out the [Library website](#) for details, but some programs include:

**Tech Time at the Library** Friday, January 18 from 3:00-4:30pm

Come and explore our collection of S.T.E.M.-based activity kits: Snap-Circuits, Citiblocks, Ozrobots, and more...we make them available, you enjoy an opportunity for make-your-own fun!

**Book Clubs Continue and new members are always welcome:**

For book club details, please go online to [www.amherstlibrary.org](http://www.amherstlibrary.org) and go to the Children's Room page, call us at 673-2288, or come on down to the Children's Room and get a copy of our Book Club Brochure. Please register online for book clubs.