

# Amherst Middle School



## AMS Weekly Email (1/25/2019)

### Amherst School Board: ASD Deliberative Session on February 5 at 7pm

#### Calendar:

Jan. 28-Feb. 1: Kindness Challenge Week  
Jan. 28-Feb. 8: NWEA testing  
February 4: Student Leadership and Service Meeting, 2:30pm in room 102  
February 5-7: Field Trips, Gr. 5  
February 6: Grade 8 NAEP  
February 8: Winter Carnival, grades 5/6, 2:20-4pm  
February 11: Winter Sports Banquet, 6pm  
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 20: Staff v. Students Basketball Game, 3:15pm  
February 25-March 1: Winter Recess, NO School  
March 6: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Transition Evening at SHS for AMS 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents  
March 11: PTA General Meeting, 9am  
March 12: **Late Start** Day, school begins at 9:25am  
March 14-17: AMS Theater Club Presents, *Shrek Jr!*  
March 19: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Hunger Banquet  
March 26: "Like" Screening/Parent Partnership Meeting, 6pm  
March 28-29: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Battleship Cove  
March 29: School Dance, 7pm for grades 6,7,8

Dear Families,

This past week has certainly epitomized the unpredictable weather in New England! Students were excited to finally make it back outside after the frigid temperatures and rain have forced recess indoors. If the "Feels Like" temperature is 20 °F or below, we do hold indoor recess and reassess throughout the school day. We believe that physical activity, the opportunity for socialization and play are important aspects of our students' development. In the coming months and into next year, we have made a commitment to continue to examine these aspects of our students' day to better support the whole child and our commitment to a healthy and safe learning environment.

Providing families with a snapshot of the kinds of learning and activities students are engaged in daily at the middle school is one of my personal goals. We often comment about how different learning looks for today's students and I know we can do a better job of showing, not just telling! Your students are more than scores on progress reports and truly are the heart of what makes AMS a special place. In the coming weeks, I hope to highlight activities, grade levels, and curriculum across the school to help transport you into our school day!

This week I would like to highlight our student artists. Central to the middle school philosophy is that all students deserve to gain exposure to and grow through the arts. We look for opportunities for students to express themselves through art classes, murals throughout the school, art clubs, and other extracurricular opportunities. Through these exposures, many students surprise themselves with their abilities, how much they enjoy creating, and some students discover talents they are passionate about pursuing. I would like to offer a special congratulations to the following student artists for having work selected for the Scholastic Arts and Writing Awards of 2019: Riley Macedo in grade 7 received Honorable Mention, Shannon Daley in grade 8 received two silver key awards, and Ryan Tupaj in grade 8

received two silver key awards and one honorable mention. Their work will be on display at Pinkerton Academy's Stockbridge Theater in Derry, NH from January 21 - February 10.

As we look to next week, AMS will be participating in the Great Kindness Challenge. The purpose of this week is to help us all be more aware of the ways we can positively impact our school community and one another. Our students have such tremendous potential that they have only begun to realize! Knowing these students are our future leaves me excited and so hopeful! Thank you for partnering with us to help your students realize they can truly change the world!

Regards,  
Dr. Bernasconi

### **Kindness Challenge Week**

Next week from Jan 28-Feb 1 AMS will be participating in the 3rd annual Great Kindness Challenge. The Great Kindness Challenge (GKC) is a proactive and positive bullying prevention initiative that improves school climate and increases student engagement. The Great Kindness Challenge is one week devoted to performing as many acts of kindness as possible on campus. Through different opportunities during the week, students accept the challenge and show the world that KINDNESS MATTERS!!

### **Activities and Intramurals:**

**Intramural Basketball for Grades 5 & 6** will begin afterschool on January 29 from 2:30-3:45pm. Date and details are on our [website](#)...

**Chess Club** meets on Wednesdays afterschool. All grades and all levels are welcome! Meeting dates/details on the [website](#).

**Zentangle Club**: Do you like to doodle? Then Zentangle is for you! Meet Mrs. Bowler on Tuesdays afterschool from 2:30-3:45pm...see all the details and dates on our [website](#).

**Empty Bowl Art Club**: Come after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays to the Empty Bowls Art Club with Ms. Plank. We will make clay bowls that will be donated to Share to help feed the hungry...details and dates are on our [website](#).

### **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**

AMS has asked us to help find volunteers for lunches- especially 8th grade. Email us at: [Amherstptanh@gmail.com](mailto:Amherstptanh@gmail.com) if you're able to help!

A lot of great things are planned to benefit our schools and student experience! Here are some ways to get involved and be part of the good in Amherst:

**1/26:** Daughter's Choice Dance: Daughter's Choice Dance Online signups for refreshments and volunteers are on MySchoolAnywhere.

**2/1:** Fire & Ice Chili Cook-off Sponsored by Amherst Lions Club and other local organizations at AMS from 5-7PM. Donations accepted at the door. Chili contest entries can email [Amherstlionsclub@gmail.com](mailto:Amherstlionsclub@gmail.com)

**2/1:** 7PM: Manchester Monarchs Game featuring Wilkins 4th Grade Students singing God Bless America. Tickets available from the school shared link or on PTA website calendar link

**2/8:** Bertucci's Dine & Donate Nights have raised over \$300 this year in just two events! Help us raise another \$500 by having lunch, dinner, takeout, or dine in fun with family and friends. Simply show the event from the Amherst PTA Facebook page or website to your server. Make it a monthly outing! 2/8, 3/29, 4/26.

**2/11:** PTA Adults Only Night at Board and Brush. Preregistration required. Sign up here:

<https://boardandbrush.com/amherst/6617>

**2/13:** Next General Meeting. 9-10AM Coffee Chat with CW and AMS Administration at AMS cafeteria.

**2/18-3/8:** Read-A-Thon at CW and AMS. Last year's event raised over \$8,000!

**3/9:** PTA Adults Only Night at Merrimack Ten Pin. Preregistration required. Sign ups online in MySchoolAnywhere store.

**3/11:** General Meeting. 9-10AM Coffee Chat with CW and AMS Administration at AMS cafeteria.

**3/15:** Star Wars Math and Science Night at Wilkins from 6:30-8:30PM.

We're always looking for parents interested in taking on a role as committee members, committee chairs, and executive board members. Email for more information or see our website: [www.amherstnhpta.org](http://www.amherstnhpta.org)

## **SHS PTSA**

SHS PTSA 80's Night is quickly approaching! Saturday 2/2 from 8 pm to midnight at the Amherst Country Club. Come support your PTSA and raise some money for scholarships! Tickets are on sale at Moulton's, The Homestead, and SHS. \$20 pp, cash bar, music, and fantastic raffle items!

Questions? [souheganptsa@gmail.com](mailto:souheganptsa@gmail.com)

## **Community News**

**Scouts BSA:** Beginning February 1<sup>st</sup>, girls ages 11-17 will be welcomed into [Scouts BSA](#), formally known as Boy Scouts of America. Troop 7 is the newly established all-girl troop chartered by the Amherst Lions Club. Our leaders are dedicated, experienced, trained leaders who have been working diligently the past few months to establish the troop. They are ready and eagerly waiting for the adventures to begin. To join or for more information, please email Scoutmaster Amy Harrison at [amherstnhtroop7@gmail.com](mailto:amherstnhtroop7@gmail.com). You can also visit the Troop 7 Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/AmherstNHTroop7>.

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