

Amherst Middle School



AMS Weekly Email (11/2/2018)

Next Amherst School Board meeting: Tuesday, November 13 at 6pm in the SHS Learning Commons.

Calendar:

November 2: **Early Release**, School dismisses at 11am for conferences
November 5: **NO School**, Teacher In-Service Day
November 6: **NO School**, Election Day
November 5-9: Basketball tryouts (see schedule on the website [calendar](#))
November 9: Veteran's Walk-a-thon
November 12: **NO School**, Veteran's Day
November 13: **Late Start** Day, school begins at 9:25am
November 14: PTA Meeting, 6pm at Wilkins
November 16: School Dance, grades 6, 7, 8, 7-9:30pm
November 21-23: **NO School**, Thanksgiving Recess
November 28: PPT Meeting, "Take Back Your Calm", 6-7:30pm AMS Library
December 1: Lion's Club Craft Fair, AMS Gym and Café
December 10: 7th Grade Field Trip to Theater in MA
December 11: **Late Start** Day, school begins at 9:25am
December 11: Gr 5/6 Band and Chorus Concert
December 12: PTA Meeting, 9am AMS Café
December 12: Gr 7/8 Band and Chorus Concerts
December 24-Jan. 1: **NO School**, Holiday Recess

From the Principal:

Dear Families,

Despite the best laid plans, mother nature decided to overturn our plans for the AMS Veteran's Walk-A-Thon today! We have rescheduled the event for next Friday and will also add a school wide remembrance for Veteran's Day. We truly appreciate all of your donations to help us support our local Veterans. It's not too late to contribute to our fundraising efforts and both cash and checks are accepted. Please make checks payable to the Amherst Middle School as we are asked to purchase and directly provide the gift cards to the VA Medical Center Volunteer Services department.

We are excited to have sent home your student's progress report in its new format. You should have received progress reports for Math, Science, English Language Arts, Social Studies, and World Language. Due to the format and scheduling of our Integrated Arts program, you will receive those reports at the trimester end. Teachers will also be reaching out to families regarding any concerns they may have in the interim. We've linked the [cover letter](#) and [annotated progress report](#) that accompanied these reports to this message for your convenience and quick reference. I have enjoyed the opportunity to meet and the time for conversation that parent-teacher conferences have allowed us this week. Whether a more formal meeting or our quick conversations in the hallway, these moments to talk about our students and their experiences are a critical part of ensuring that we see, support, and challenge the whole child. Thank you for taking the time to share your students and their stories. I carry both with me throughout my day, when working with teachers, walking through the school, and talking with stakeholders about our incredible community of learners. Their stories are what we must keep at the heart of all we do and every decision we make.

I hope this weekend brings you all time to relax and enjoy family, friends, and fall in New England.

Regards,

Dr. Bethany Bernasconi

Thank you, Amherst PTA

Thank you to the many parents who volunteered to provide hot soup, rolls and sweets to our staff during parent-teacher conferences. We so appreciated your thoughtfulness!

NEW DATE: Annual Walk-a-thon for Veterans, Nov. 9

The annual AMS Walk-a-Thon for local veterans will be held on the morning of November 9. The entire Amherst Middle School community will be walking to honor our local veterans. Each grade will wear a different color shirt and carries a service flag on the day of the Walk-A-Thon. The color and flag assignments for each grade are:

5th Grade: Air Force Flag & American Flag- **Red**

6th Grade: Army Flag & Coast Guard Flag-**Blue**

7th Grade: Marine Corps Flag & American Flag- **White**

8th Grade: Navy Flag & POW Flag- **Black**

Many of our veterans struggle to meet their own basic needs; in recent years, our generous AMS community has supported the Manchester VA Hospital Outreach Program through the purchase of gift cards for groceries and gasoline. We have collection jars in the lobby for donations. Thank you in advance for your support!

PTA Meeting on Nov. 14

Officer Knox, SRO for the Amherst elementary/middle schools, will be the featured speaker at the next PTA meeting on Nov. 14 at 6pm at Wilkins School. Officer Knox's presentation entitled, "Successful Navigation of Social Media and Adolescence" will offer parents valuable information as you negotiate social media/safe internet use with your children.

Breakfast in November

AMS will be offering breakfast for the month of November! Breakfast will be served from 7-7:20am, at a cost of \$1.50.

8th Grade Yearbook Cover Art

Calling all 8th graders: the yearbook committee is now accepting artwork to be used for the yearbook covers. Submissions should be turned in to Mrs. Sheldon in the computer lab.

Winter Sports

- **Girls Basketball**, open to grades 6-8, Coach Rodon (brodon@sau39.org)
- **Boys Basketball**, open to grades 6-8 Coach Bly (gbly@sprise.com)
- **AMS Cheer & Dance**, open to grades 5-8 Coach Mo Greene (mgreene@sprise.com)
- **Wrestling**, open to grades 5-8 Coach Tom Lacroix (tclwpi2014@gmail.com) There will be an additional sign up meeting for wrestling on Nov. 13 after school.

Basketball Tryout Schedule	Nov. 5	Nov. 6	Nov. 7	Nov. 8	Nov. 9
	Girls 3:00-5:00 AMS	Boys 9:00-11:00 AMS	Girls 2:30-4:30 SHS	Girls 2:30-4:30 SHS	Girls 2:30-4:30 SHS
	Boys 5:00-7:00 AMS	Girls 11:00-1:00 AMS	Boys 2:30-4:30 AMS	Boys 2:30-4:30 AMS	Boys 2:30-4:30 AMS

All students must have an up-to-date physical and a signed Athletic Contract & Emergency Form (contained in the [Athletics Handbook](#)) in order to tryout/practice for sports; **fall athletes** will need to complete a **new** contract/emergency form. (Physical exams are good for two years from the date of the physical.)

Take Back Your Calm

Everyone from student to parent, feels stressed at some time. On November 28th from 6:00-7:30pm, bring your child/children to an interactive workshop to learn at least 5 different methods to help cope with stress in healthy ways. Take a break to have a fun enjoyable and educational experience with your child and staff from their school. See our [flyer](#) for all the details.

Souhegan Scholarship Foundation Trivia Night

A Team Trivia Night will be held on Wednesday November 14 to benefit the Souhegan Scholarship Foundation. See [our flyer](#) for more details.

Community News

Amherst Town Library: November Programs

The Amherst Town Library has lots of children and family programming for the month of November! Check out our [website](#) for details.

Pat's Peak: Pat's Peak 2019 Learn to Ski & Ride Program has begun registrations for their annual 5-week program beginning in January. Please see the [flyer](#) for all the details.