



# TfS Newsletter

“Tools for Schools”

**AMITY REGIONAL  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Volume 1, Issue 1  
October 2007**

## 2006 EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNER

The United States Environmental Protection Agency named Amity Regional School District No. 5 as one of only three school districts in the nation to win its prestigious 2006 National Indoor Air Quality “Tools for Schools” Excellence Award!

In 2001 and 2002, mold problems closed the Amity High School auditorium, parents threatened to pull their children out of school, and a possible cancer cluster in the district caused more public concerns. In 2004, the Board of Education adopted a goal to establish and maintain the healthiest indoor air quality (IAQ) possible. In 2005, the Superintendent of Schools directed the successful implementation of a district-wide indoor air quality management program.

Each school in the district has an IAQ committee that includes interested stakeholders,

including administrators, teachers, the head custodian, the nurse, support staff, and parents. The district developed standard operating procedures for responding to IAQ complaints. The IAQ committees and facilities department work together to address the concerns of the staff and inform the stakeholders of all steps taken. This emphasis on communication, along with a quick response to problems, has helped to rebuild trust lost during the initial IAQ crises.



**Amity accepts IAQ National Award in D.C.**

## Risk Control Achievement Award

Our school district was honored in June with a Risk Control Achievement Award from the Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA), the state’s largest municipal workers’ compensation and property/liability insurer. The District and our Health and Safety Committee garnered the award for its implementation of the EPA’s indoor air quality program, “Tools for Schools”.



### Inside this issue:

Custodians work hard to clean schools	<b>2</b>
Commissioning brings higher performance	<b>2</b>
An ounce of prevention...	<b>2</b>
We want to know your concerns	<b>3</b>
Amity’s success story being told	<b>3</b>
Featured employees	<b>3</b>
Superintendent of Schools message	<b>4</b>

- The IAQ “Tools for Schools” Team is committed to continue our top-notch indoor air quality program.
- The Facilities Department continues to do its best to provide a clean, safe environment for students, staff and visitors.
- Senior Management remains strongly supportive of our TfS program.

## Custodians work hard to clean schools



**Bethany Classroom**

The custodians did an outstanding job readying the school buildings for the opening of school. All rooms were cleaned from top to bottom. Prior to the start of summer cleaning, a checklist was hung on each door and as each task was accomplished, the item was checked off on the list. This quality assurance tool enables the custodians to ensure that no items were

overlooked as the custodians made their way through the buildings. The use of automated equipment made a huge difference in productivity.

It may be interesting that:

- 535 gallons of floor finish were laid to re-finish the VCT floors district wide
- 160 gallons of gym

finish were laid to re-finish the five wood gym floors

- 324 man-hours were saved district wide by utilizing the automated equipment purchased by the Board of Education

Custodians take a great deal of pride in making our school buildings clean.

## Commissioning brings higher performance

“Commissioning will ensure the building is operating as efficiently as possible...”

**Jim Saisa**  
Facilities Director

Commissioning is a process by which an independent third party will certify that a new building will begin at optimal productivity and improve the likelihood that the building will maintain this level of performance. Controls, sensors, and equipment are

evaluated for proper installation and performance, including balancing, operation, and sequencing. Commissioning will ensure the building is operating as efficiently as possible energy-wise and providing a comfortable environment for building occupants.

The commissioning process was on-going at AHS and began in June at the Middle Schools. The facilities department has worked with the commissioning agent to ensure all heating and cooling zones are operating at optimal strategies.

## An ounce of prevention...



**SchoolDude is a web-based work order system**

A detailed preventive maintenance schedule has been developed and implemented using SchoolDude, a web-based interactive program. Our facilities department, led by Jim Saisa, Director of Facilities, is making sure all of

our maintenance equipment is being properly maintained. Ralph Schuster, our in-house maintainer, can always be seen working very hard. Tracy Daigle, Facilities Coordinator, makes sure Ralph and Earl, Ronnie

and Phil, our top-notch Head Custodians, are aware of what needs to be done. Together, the facilities team works to maintain the maximum building comfort. Please let the facilities department know if there is a problem.

## We want to know your concerns

The success of our Indoor Air Quality “Tools for Schools” program depends on open communication. The facilities department wants to know your concerns. If your classroom is too hot or too cold, please don’t hesitate to contact us. If your classroom or any other part of the building is not cleaned to your satisfaction, we would appreciate your comments.

If you have any concerns regarding the building’s cleanliness or air quality, please let us know.

### CONTACT

**Jim Saisa**, Director of Facilities —397-4818

**Jack Levine**, Finance Director—397-4813

If you have a health issue related to indoor air quality, please contact your School Nurse, who will make sure your problem is addressed in a timely manner.

We will treat all medical conditions in a confidential manner. If necessary, we will have a Health District Official talk to the employee.



See your nurse if needed

## Amity’s success story being told

Only several years ago, Amity was considered the ‘poster child’ of a school district with a lot of indoor air quality issues. We now have such a wonderful success story that we are being featured at conferences, national web conference calls, and other forums.

**Jack Levine**, Finance Director, was a presenter at the Indoor Air Quality in Connecticut Forum in March 2006 and one of the three featured speakers for the Framework for Effective School IAQ Programs National Web Conference in January 2007.

**Kendra Luth**, Bethany School Nurse, presented at the American Academy of Pediatrics “Critical Issues in School Health” conference in May 2007. People were surprised in how much the district accomplished in a such a short period of time.

“People were surprised in how much the district accomplished in such a short period of time”

**Kendra Luth**  
School Nurse

## Featured employees

**Ralph Schuster** is the district’s maintainer, who works on the heating and cooling systems and does a myriad of repairs throughout the district. He is always anxious to please. We greatly appreciate his hard work!

**Tracy Daigle** facilitates the work orders to Ralph and Head Custodians. She coordinates and schedules work with vendors and assists with building usage issues. In short, Tracy is a key person in getting the work done.

**Custodial Staff** is to be commended for their diligence. We commend our Head Custodians **Phil Ianniello**, **Ronnie Lawrence**, **Earl Potter** and Night Shift Supervisor **Semyon Dubrovsky** and their staffs for all of their hard work.



**Jim Saisa leads our top-notch Facilities Department**

**AMITY REGIONAL  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**INDOOR AIR QUALITY  
“TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS”  
TEAM**

**Bethany:** Richard Dellinger, Tom Elwell, Brian Goldstein, Louise Grober, Ron Lawrence, Kendra Luth, Rhett Shaw, Kim Vigliotti

**Orange:** Joyce Cap, Barbara Ceneri, Maureen Ferguson, Barbara Haag, Phil Ianniello, Lisa Kochiss, Edyie Lefebvre, Kristin Leibrock, Bob Slie

**High School:** Bob Cole, Sue Criscuolo, Mary Cornell, Mary Lou Giordano, Paul Peterson, Earl Potter, Brian Serapiglia

**District Office:** Tracy Daigle, Jack Levine, Jim Saisa, Ralph Schuster

The continued success of the district’s Indoor Air Quality “Tools for Schools” program is dependent upon four key attributes.

- **Trust** of staff that their concerns and comments are welcomed and appreciated
- **Strong commitment** of senior management to safe and healthy school buildings
- **Teamwork** of everyone to address IAQ issues in a proactive manner
- **Communication** to all the stakeholders so everyone knows what is happening

## Superintendent of Schools message

In November, the Amity School District was honored by the United States Department of Environmental Protection for its proactive and aggressive approach to management of indoor air quality. The EPA took note of the \$75.5 million renovation and construction project, the strong Board and district leadership focused on managing indoor air quality, the drastic reduction in asthma related health office visits and a positive report from teachers. Only

three school districts in the United States received this prestigious award in 2006.

The Board of Education has supported the purchase of new cleaning equipment, implementation of a comprehensive safety services program, purchase of a high-tech indoor air monitoring device as well as improvements to our heating and cooling systems. This support has resulted in a better environment for students and staff.

The Board and I are fully committed to our indoor air quality “Tools for Schools” program. We are proud of our past accomplishments and appreciate the hard work of our custodians and maintenance staff. All of us need to continue to work together to make sure we have safe and healthy school buildings.

Sincerely,  
**Dr. John J. Brady**  
Superintendent of Schools



**Dr. Brady**