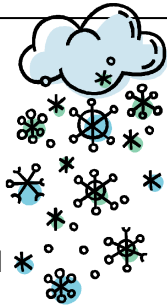




# NEWSLETTER

Amity Middle School – Bethany Campus – 190 Luke Hill Road Bethany, CT 06524  
Visit us on the web at [www.amityregion5.org](http://www.amityregion5.org)

*December, 2005*



## From the Principal

Dear Students & Families:

This issue of the Newsletter is full of news about the many, many programs and activities that occurred during the past few weeks. Students and staff should be commended for all their work and cooperation. There is no shortage of activities coming up in December either! Some of the highlights include:

**Parent Workshop:** There will be a workshop on Thursday, December 8, from 5:45 PM until 6:30 PM in the Media Center for all parents/guardians entitled, "How can I help my child be successful in school this year?" It is offered by School Psychologist, Eric Bacik and Outreach Counselor, Noreen Julian.

**Parent/Teacher Conferences:** Individual parent/teacher conferences have been scheduled, by appointment, on December 1 and 8, between 6:30 PM and 9:00 PM. If you have any questions regarding conferences, please contact Arlene D'Angelo, guidance secretary at 393-3103.

**Winter Concerts:** Our band/chorus winter concert will be on Tuesday, December 13, at 7:00 PM at the Amity High School Cafeteria. The strings concert will be on Thursday, December 15, at 6:30 PM also at the Amity High School Cafeteria.

**Minimum Day:** We will have a minimum day on Friday, December 23, before the start of our holiday recess. Students will be dismissed at 12:14 PM. No lunch will be served. School reopens on Tuesday, January 3, 2006.

Please look over our December newsletter and activity calendar. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me. On behalf of the Bethany staff, best wishes for a wonderful start to the holiday season!

Very truly yours,

Richard Dellinger  
Principal

## PTO Message

Our 1st evening PTO meeting held in November was well attended by parents, as well as Dr. Dellinger; Carolyn Stanley, Computer Technology Integration Specialist; and Ed Parshall, Security Guard. After the business part of the meeting, there was a fabulous presentation on Internet Safety given by FBI Special Agent, Kathy Shumaker. Thank you to Kate Luciani for facilitating this program and also to the hospitality committee for arranging the refreshments. The PTO would also like to thank our Fundraising Committee on the success of the Cherrydale and Cookie Dough sales. Please pick up your cookie dough on December 1. Any cookie dough not picked up on December 1 will be donated to the Connecticut Food Bank. The first submission of **Box Tops for Education** labels are due December 16. Please have all your labels sent into the front office to Mrs. Anne McDonnell on or before December 16. Thank you.

Upcoming PTO events: December 6, PTO meeting at 9:00 AM. On December 14, the PTO will be hosting the Teachers' holiday afternoon coffee and....If anyone would like to bake or contribute to this function, please contact Karen Lockhart, Chairperson of the hospitality committee. Look for AMS Spring sportswear line debuting in the late winter. The PTO wishes everyone a healthy and happy holiday season. Please consider joining the PTO, if you haven't. Blank applications are in the school office or you can contact Janet Hershman or Judith Hess for information.

## Remaining PTO Meetings for school year

|         |            |                   |
|---------|------------|-------------------|
| Tuesday | December 6 | 9:00 AM           |
| Tuesday | January 10 | 9:00 AM           |
| Tuesday | February 7 | 9:00 AM           |
| Tuesday | March 7    | 7:00 PM (Evening) |
| Tuesday | April 4    | 9:00 AM           |
| Tuesday | May 2      | 9:00 AM           |
| Tuesday | June 6     | 9:00 AM           |

(Old Board/New Board Breakfast Meeting)

## ***Thank you to...***

- Debbie DeMeo, Leo Club advisor, and the 16 members of the Leo Club for volunteering at the Bethany Lion's Club Annual Halloween Party on Friday, October 28, at the Bethany Community School.
- Tammy Saisa, teacher advisor of the school newspaper, "The Spartan Forum" and the 23 student members of her staff for producing the October, 2005 edition. The research, poems, writing, and cartoon were extremely well done and very interesting.
- Kendra Luth, school nurse, for introducing the special health "hand-washing" demonstration and lesson in PE. Kendra used special cream and the dramatic "black light" to demonstrate the proper hand-washing technique.
- Janet Hershman, PTO co-president and PTO hospitality chairpersons Karen Lockhart and Kate Luciani for all the delicious pies and refreshments as part of the fall appreciation "coffee" they provided after school on Wednesday, October 26, for all staff.
- Social Studies teacher Nicole Knott for arranging a trip with six of her students to visit the Beecher Elementary School to share some of their projects.
- Physical Education teachers Rhett Shaw, Geri-Lyn Dubay, Tom Elwell, all the staff who assisted and especially to the 65.7% of our eighth graders who passed all four tests on the Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment. This percentage sets a new milestone at Bethany. According to the most recent scores posted on the state department's web site (2003), only three other schools in the entire state had a higher percentage of students passing. The score, 8.1percentage points better than last year, will certainly place us among the highest achieving schools this year, too!

## ***Congratulations to students who met***

***Connecticut's Physical Fitness Goal*** : Kenneth Adair, Michael Adamczyk, Rachel Amarante, Michael Apartsev, Kiyam Bakhtiari, Daniel Bar-Aharon, Leslie Barrett, Marisa Bedron, Priyanka Bhargava, Tara Blaise, Nikki Bloch, Ariel Branden, Gary Britto, Adam Brocklehurst, Jack Brunwin, Nicholas Bubaris, Alexandra Buda, Michelle Burt, Vincent Canepari, Connor Capasso, Catherine Caracciolo, Shawn Casoria, Kattie Chen, Quan Chen, Steven Ciardiello, John Cocco, Dylan Cohen, Valentino Colagiovanni, Louis Concato, Nathan Countermarsh, Pauline Critch-Gilfillan, Javier Cuatlatoa, Jorge Cuatlatoa, Seth Davis,

Richard DelBuono, Jonathan DeMaio, Lars Demander, Jonathan DeMayo, Alexandra Desir, Devin Diglio, Katie Drake, Ryan Dulko, Gregory Estra, Grace Ewing, Ian Farrell, Amanda Fimbers, Daniel Foldy, Lauren Fox, Eric Frohman, Aliza Gans, Samuel Gelernter, Chelsea Geremia, Sara Gruzaz, Sophia Hart, Sydney Henck, Amanda Hershman, Jonathan Hess, Jennifer Hoffer, Sandy Honig, Ashley Horvath, Kevin Howard, Ross Kahn, Conor Keniry, Brian Kernan, Seong-Hun Kim, Hannah Klein, Ewen Kronemeyer, Laura Kurjanowicz, Kaleigh Kurpiewski, Taryn Larkin, Dhanan Lathia, Lucy Lehman, Ashley Marie Leiva, Jingyuan Liang, Lyndsay Lockhart, Alexandra Lopez-Villa, Margaret Luciani, Noah Lurie, Brian Magda, Thomas Magda, Rachel Mahler, Michael Malinconico, William Marrone, Robert Martino, Justin Mass, Geoffrey Mate, Andrew Maude, Connor McNerney, Ruthie Medovnikov, Jeremy Megiura, Evangelos Milas, Carter Miller, Lindsay Miller, Patrick Miller, Adam Morowitz, Marla Morris, Emily Nadelmann, Eric Najmowicz, Rivka Oren, Alexis Parente, Kaitlyn Paz, Jillian Pagnataro, Kyrsti Perkins, Jessica Pignataro, Sara Pines, Nicholas Platoff, Wesley Pruitt, Jennifer Purcell, Tyler Rehm, Mayra Reyes-Alvarez, Lucia Rieur, Sean Riley, Sam Roberts, Lindsay Roffman, Julia Ruggiero, Stephanie Ryan, Molly Sachs, Alida Salerno, Sara Sampoli, Samuel Schnittman, Erik Scott, William Simon, Alex Snyder, Rebekah Stein, Andrew Stein Zeller, David Steinmetz, Julia Summers, Jiayi Sun, Aliza Taft, Weston Thomas, Robert Trachtman, Melissa Vernik, Aaron Votre, Michelle Wapnick, Cara Welch-Rubin, Ivana Zakoworotny, Max Zaniewski, Yuqi Zhang

## ***Also Congratulations to.....***

- Teachers Carolyn Stanley and Sara Frank for being featured in a full page article in the November, 2005 edition of the CEA Advisor, published by the Connecticut Education Association. The article describes Carolyn's passion for technology as well as a collaborative art/technology assignment that students have done with Sara Frank and other art teachers.
- Guidance Counselor Karen Wojciechowski for having an article printed in the most recent edition of IMPACT, Connecticut's Journal for Middle Level Educators which is published by the Connecticut Association of Schools. Karen's article was entitled "Character Education – A Climate of Caring" and describes last year's activities of Bethany's Character Education Committee.
- Art Teacher Sara Frank, belatedly, for the successful completion of her master's degree

this past summer from the University of Southern Connecticut.

- Grade 8 students David Steinmetz and Yuqi Zhang who were selected this year from Bethany to receive the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendent's (CAPSS) Certificate of Excellence. This prestigious award, now in the 20<sup>th</sup> year, is presented to outstanding students in Connecticut and acknowledges exemplary students who have served the school and community while demonstrating strong academic achievement. David, Yuqi, and their families were acknowledged at the Board of Education meeting on Monday, November 14.

**David Steinmetz** – David is an honor roll student who is in band and plays soccer. He along with his sisters started a campaign to get rid of cigarette butt litter. He has been to Washington, DC to meet with Senator Joseph Liberman to promote this program. He also helped to raise money for the victims of Hurricane Katrina and was able to get the Nestle Corporation to match the funds from our school which totaled almost \$ 4,000.

**Yuqi Zhang** – Yuqi is an honor roll student who likes to swim and play badminton. She plays the piano and is a talented member of the jazz band and the strings program. She is also a member of the New Haven Youth Symphony. This year she has volunteered to help tutor our ESL student from Taiwan in reading. She is an award winning pianist. She has also won the Kingston Symphony Committee Music Award for 2004.

- Also congratulations to those students who achieved Honor Roll for Marking Period 1

#### **Criteria for First Honors**

- A- or better in four subjects which meet 5 times per week for at least one semester.
- B or better in all other subjects which meet 5 times per week for at least one semester.
- B- or better in subjects which meet fewer than 5 times per week or less than one semester

#### **Criteria for Second Honors**

- B or better in subjects which meet 5 times per week for at least one semester.
- B- or better in subjects which meet fewer than 5 times per week or less than one semester.

## **Grade 7**

### **Honors I**

Peter Amadeo, Kara Anderson, Theodore Ballou, Rachel Barbessi, Matthew Beland, Elise Bitterman, Hannah Block, Jodi Brignola, Theodore Burt, Rachel Cardozo, Deanna Cho, Nicole DeChello, Yichen Dong, Jacqueline Duhl, Pauline Dutka, Ashley Emery, Emily Feng, Connor Foster, Samantha Friedman, Nathaniel Gallant, Ana Gonzalez, Jonathan Greengarden, Jamie Hillas, Edward Hochman, Arian Jadbabaie, Jenna Kahane, Joseph Keller, Daria Koren, Lauren Larkin, Brenna Lilley, Colin McNulty, Jenna Park, Caitlin Peterson, Alisha Roopchand, Rachel Rosenblum, Isabelle Sanchez, Samantha Saslafsky, Kimberly Simon, Jamie Spahn, Emma Spiegel, Andrew Wang

### **Honors II**

Abigail Barrett, Daniel Battat, Matthew Bernobich, Julia Berv, Bradley Bortner, Maya Brownstein, Cara Bryce, Jennifer Coba, Michael Fusaris, Christine Guo, Matthew Harsche, Dominique Haywood, Marissa Heath, Nicole Hirshfield, Charles Huang, Joan Kim, Sin See Leung, Samuel Likier, Julie Linker, Gregory Loscalzo, Danielle McKinstry, Alyssa Morrow, Ariana Nardella, Colleen Oleynik, Penelope Papanikolaou, Tyler Paz, Stella Protopapas, Alexander Pyne, Lauren Rascati, Kristin Rendero, Justin Sardi, Nicole Schanker, Carolyn Stevens, Sara Strimpel, Alessandra Vecchio, Paige Woodward, Sheng-nan Zhao, Andrew Zielinski

## **Grade 8**

### **Honors I**

Rachel Amarante, Rachel Amato, Leslie Barrett, Tayler Bennett, Thomas Bergman, Julia Blanchette, Nikki Bloch, Jack Brunwin, Jack Chen, Dylan Cohen, Louis Concato, Laura D'Angelo, Benjie Ding, Lauren Fox, Aliza Gans, Samuel Gelernter, Chelsea Geremia, Jennifer Green, Rebecca Han, Sandy Honig, Hannah Klein, Ewen Kronemeyer, Kaleigh Kurpiewski, Alexandra Lopez-Vila, Margaret Luciani, Thomas Mattessich, Alexandra Migani, Patrick Miller, Emily Nadelmann, Jennifer Peat, Teresa Pellicano, Sara Pines, Nicholas Platoff, Sam Roberts, Lindsay Roffman, Sara Sampoli, Samuel Schnittman, Nikhil Shah, Dakota Spear, Rebekah Stein, David Steinmetz, Jack Sun, Aliza Taft, Robert Trachtman, Laura Van Dyck, Cara Welch-Rubin, Ivana Zakoworotny, Max Zaniewski, Yuqi Zhang

## Honors II

Marissa Bedron, Priyanka Bhargava, Nkenge Blue, Adam Brocklehurst, Alexandra Buda, Joshua Burger-Caplan, Michelle Burt, Catherine Caracciolo, Kattie Chen, Jack Chen, Nathan Coutermarsh, Alexandra Desir, Katie Drake, Brianna Eisensmith, Grace Ewing, Amanda Fimbers, Sophia Hart, Karen Hsueh, Molly Kehoe, Seong-Hun Kim, Taryn Larkin, Mary Li, Jimmy Liang, Rachel Mahler, Ruthie Medovnikov, Rivka Oren, Jessica Pignataro, Colby Plaskowitz, Lucia Rieur, Sean Riley, Chelsea Roffman, Stephanie Ryan, Molly Sachs, Samuel Simon, William Simon, Alex Snyder, Steven Sviridoff, Carolyn Taylor, Melissa Vernik, Olivia Zajac



## Scholastic Book Fair

There will be a Scholastic Book Fair held in the Media Center beginning Monday, December 12, through Thursday, December 15. The Book Fair offers a great opportunity to purchase holiday gifts. Stop in during school hours 7:30 – 3:30 and browse our great selection of books (humor, science fiction, mystery, sports, anime, fantasy, cooking) and “cool stuff” (posters, pens, stickers, novelties, jewelry, journals and more). Hope to see you!!

## Randall Team Homework Website

In an effort to help facilitate better home-school communication, our team has developed a homework website. Each afternoon, the website will be updated with the most recent assignments. They are categorized by subject and period.

The site's link is

<http://www.schoolnotes.com/06524/randallteam.html> .

This link has been placed next to our respective names on the school's staff directory webpage.

We continue to emphasize the importance of your child's agenda pad. Our website should not be mistaken as a substitute for it, and we hope you will reinforce this at home. If you would like to check your child's homework assignments, if your child has a question about what was assigned, or if your child was absent, the site is available. We welcome your feedback and hope you find our website useful.

## Nurse's Corner

Please remember, if you are calling in an absence, call 393-3104. If for any reason you need to speak with the nurse, call 393-4039.

Rhinovirus, Rotavirus!! Are you familiar with these



germs? The students are! The “Germbuster” hand-washing program has begun. All students will participate to learn about proper hand washing and illness prevention techniques. This

program is interactive and allows students to demonstrate what they have learned. Purell dispensers will be installed outside the cafeteria and all students will be encouraged to “sanitize” their hands prior to eating. Please ask your teens about this program.

**Grade 7 parents/guardians:** If your child has not completed the Hep B vaccine series, please remember to keep on schedule. All students are required to have the vaccine completed prior to entering 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

## Student Council

Two students who sold at least two Entertainment Books were lucky winners of an iPod each. Congratulations to our student winners, Carolyn Stevens from the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, and Max Zaniewski of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Thank you to all who worked so hard to sell books for our fundraiser.

Correction to the November Newsletter – Amanda Hershmann and Aliza Gans are the Student Council Homeroom Representatives for HR 13.

Our December service activity will be collecting toys to donate to the Toys for Tots program. We are focusing on items for tiny tots - children from **infant through age three years**. We are told by the Toys for Tots people that this age group is generally overlooked, so we decided to make these babies our special cause. Toys can be brought into the homerooms from Dec. 5 through Dec. 16. They will then be delivered to the local collection center. Thank you in advance for helping us with this community service.

We'd like to thank everyone who helped out on our November community service activity by collecting personal hygiene items for local residents of homeless shelters. Our students collected twelve LARGE boxes crammed with supplies! These were given to the residents at the annual Thanksgiving lunch sponsored by Christopher Martin's. Again, thank you to all who contributed to make this drive such a success.

## Guidance Department

- **Character Education Program** – highlighted the value “determination” for the month of November. The film Rudy was shown to all students emphasizing the importance of determination in our daily lives. Further discussions were held in team classes. Congratulations to the following October Character of the Month recipients demonstrating “courage” – Sheng-nan Zhao, Ashley Emery, Jonathan Greengarden, Christine Esposito, and Ashley Marla Leiva.
- **Teacher Conferences** are scheduled for 12/1/05 and 12/08/05 from 6:30-9:00 by appointment.
- **Annual Coat Drive** is now being held. Thank you for all donors and peer advocates for coordinating this activity. Coats will be donated to a New Haven Women’s shelter.
- **Mid- Marking Period Reports** for the second marking period will be mailed home the week of December 19.

## Leo Club

On Friday October 28, the Bethany Lion’s Club held their annual Halloween Party at Bethany Community School for the young children of the town. Every year, the Lions depend on members of the Leo Club to help make the party a success by “running” the various games in the game room and giving prizes to all who participate. Games include activities such as mini-golf, ring toss, shooting baskets, and bean-bag toss.

This year, 16 members of the Leo Club and I attended the event from 7 to 9 PM and had a great time bringing smiles to all the young children’s faces!

The members who attended included  
Grade 7: Christine Guo, Jenna Park, Deanna Cho, Rhianna Mendez, and Joanie Kim.

Grade 8: Carolyn Taylor, Jennifer Purcell, Alexandra Buda, Olivia Zajac, Marisa Bedron, Jennifer Peat, Alexandra Lopez-Vila, Sarah Pines, Kattie Chen, Najja Salmon, and Sara Gruzaz.

A few other Amity Middle School students also helped, even though they are not technically “members” of the Leo Club. These students were Adam Morowitz, Ken Adair, and Eric Najmowicz.

## Parents/Guardians Reading Corner

From Reading Consultant, Eileen K. Kazdan



### Motivating Kids to Read

As parents, we are often frustrated when our children are reluctant to read. Familiar phrases like “I hate reading”, “It’s so boring”, “I don’t have time”, “I can’t find a good book” and many more are often heard. There are many forces out there that pull the kids attention away from reading such as television, video games, IM, the internet, sports, after-school activities, and homework. It is important then to incorporate reading into our children’s daily routine. Enjoy trying some of the following suggestions.

1. Learn your child’s interests. Scout for things your children might like to read.
2. Leave all sorts of reading materials including books, magazines, and newspapers in conspicuous places around your home.
3. Notice what types of things attract your child’s attention. Have them read it aloud and have a brief discussion.
4. Let your children see you reading for pleasure. Modeling is the greatest form of teaching.
5. Take your children to the library or book store regularly. Join them in exploring books.
6. Encourage your child to read to younger siblings. It’s fun to have an admiring audience.
7. Play reading related games with your child such as *Scrabble*, *Boggle*, *Quizmo Vocabulary*, *Word Jumbles*, and crossword puzzles.
8. During relaxed moments such as dinner time or in the car running errands share your reactions to something you read. Encourage your child to do like-wise.
9. Read some of the books your child reads. Believe it or not, **many** adolescent books are great reading.
10. Set aside a regular time and place for reading in your family. You may even read aloud to your child. **No one** is ever too old to be read to.

On another happy note, Amity Middle School, Bethany Campus is among the best performing schools in the Governor’s 2005 Summer Reading Challenge. Governor M. Jodi Rell will conduct an awards ceremony on Friday, December 2, 2005, at 2:00 p.m.

At that time, Governor Rell and Commissioner Sternberg will recognize students of top-performing schools. Four students and one staff representative

will take part in the ceremony. "Way to Go AMITY Students".

If any parents have other questions or concerns please email me at eileen.kazdan@reg5.k12.ct.us. I look forward to hearing from you.

## Internet Safety

On November 1, 2005, Kathy Shumaker, special agent for the FBI, New Haven office, addressed the evening meeting of the PTO on the issue of their children and internet safety. Special Agent Shumaker has been involved in many cases in which youngsters have been preyed upon by individuals wishing to do them harm. In fact, Special Agent Shumaker often poses as a young girl or boy online and is horrified by the number of "predators" lurking and waiting to lure youngsters into perilous situations.

In her speech she made the following points:

- There are lots of people with bad intentions lurking on the internet waiting for an opportunity to entice unsuspecting youngsters into dangerous liaisons.
- Middle school age boys and girls probably shouldn't have websites or profiles, but many do.
- Hence, parents/guardians need to know what their child is doing on the internet.
- Parents/guardians need to know what their child's screen name(s) is or are and what profiles they have out there.
- Parents/guardians need to keep lines of communication open with their children so that a child will not trust a stranger more than his/her parents.
- Parents/guardians need to sit with their kids and discuss the dangers of sharing personal information and pictures on the internet.

Special Agent Shumaker recommends that parents/guardians and students investigate the following websites to become more aware of the dangers of sharing personal information online:

<http://www.ncmec.org>  
<http://www.fbi.gov>

In addition, Mrs. Zabinski, our media center specialist has compiled the following websites for parents to investigate:

<http://www.safekids.com>  
<http://www.safeteens.com>  
<http://www.isafe.org>

## **Kids' Rules for Online Safety**

1. I will not give out personal information such as my address, telephone number, parents'/guardians' work address/telephone number, or the name and location of my school without my parents'/guardians' permission.
2. I will tell my parents/guardians right away if I come across any information that makes me feel uncomfortable.
3. I will never agree to get together with someone I "meet" online without first checking with my parents or guardians. If my parents/guardians agrees to the meeting, I will be sure that it is in a public place and bring one of my parents or guardians along.
4. I will never send a person my picture or anything else without first checking with my parents or guardians.
5. I will not respond to any messages that are mean or in any way make me feel uncomfortable. It is not my fault if I get a message like that. If I do, I will tell my parents or guardians right away so that they can contact the service provider.
6. I will talk with my parents or guardians so that we can set up rules for going online. We will decide upon the time of day that I can be online, the length of time I can be online and appropriate areas for me to visit. I will not access other areas or break these rules without their permission.
7. I will not give out my Internet password to anyone (even my best friends) other than my parents or guardians.
8. I will check with my parents or guardians before downloading or installing software or doing anything that could possibly hurt our computer or jeopardize my family's privacy.
9. I will be a good online citizen and not do anything that hurts other people or is against the law.
10. I will help my parents or guardians understand how to have fun and learn things online and teach them things about the Internet, computers and other technology.

Rules one through six are adapted from the brochure [Child Safety on the Information Highway](#) by SafeKids.Com founder Larry Magid. (© 2004 National Center for Missing and Exploited Children). Rules 7 through 10 are copyrighted by Larry Magid (© 2005)

## Grade 8 – Medieval Day

On Thursday, November 17, grade 8 attended Medieval Times in Lyndhurst, New Jersey. Students enjoyed a medieval feast and tournament. The following day the students enjoyed Medieval Day at school. Students were given different activities to sign up for which included weaving, hair braiding, floral headbands hats, medieval helmets, castle building, illuminated letters, and stained glass among other things. Teacher, Carolyn Stanley, took many wonderful pictures, some of which are attached to this newsletter.

## Spanish - Day of the Dead Celebration

Mrs. Quintin's Spanish classes took a hiatus from verbs, vocabulary and adjectives to prepare for the huge celebration known as "El Dia de Los Muertos" or "Day of the Dead". All classes visited the computer lab to research this holiday and followed up in the classroom creating skulls and skeletons. In addition, students wrote fictitious obituaries and added personal items to the classroom altar. The Cultural Spanish class designed skeleton mobiles, mummies in coffins, maracas, and also made and decorated sugar skulls. The students culminated these activities by viewing the PBS film "Food for the Ancestors" while enjoying scary, but yummy skull pops.



## Winter Concerts

On Tuesday, December 13, the Music Department from Bethany Middle School consisting of Jazz Band, Concert Band, Concert Choir, Chamber Singers and Charmettes will be performing at 7:00 PM in the High School Cafeteria.

On Thursday, December 15, the Strings Ensemble concert will take place at 6:30 PM in the High School Cafeteria. The Strings Ensemble is comprised of Strings players from Amity Middle School in Bethany and Orange and also from the Senior High School. The Amity High School Band and Choir will perform following the Strings performance.

## Amity Middle School Wrestling Club Team



This club team is for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

**Price:** \$240 (includes 5 tournaments)

**Days:** Practices are held 4 times per week. Some tournaments are held on Sundays.

**Dates:** Starting Dec. 5 – March 2006

**Time:** 4:30 pm – 6:15 pm and 7 pm – 8:30 pm

**Location:** Bethany Town Hall Gym, Amity High School, and Beecher North

**Head Coaches:** Chris Gorley & Anthony Cofrancesco

**Requirements:** Wrestling shoes, shorts and t-shirt.

## **Words! Action! Theatre!**



In a gigantic black room with a ceiling thirty feet high, students sat in silent focus, stark white masks covering their faces. In classrooms upstairs and down, small student groups proudly presented symbolic renditions of the classic Rapunzel fairytale using pictographs made of construction paper, scissors, glue and a lot of imagination. All were participants in a special drama workshop which took place at the Educational Center for the Arts in New Haven on the mornings of November 7 and 21. Twenty five of Amity Middle School's most theatrical students joined 25 students from Betsy Ross Arts Magnet School in New Haven as they performed theatre games and movement exercises under the direction of three drama professionals, including master drama teacher Ingrid Schaeffer. After the first workshop, I asked Amity students Melissa Ottaviano, Pauline Critch-Gillfillan, and Devin Diglio about their experience.

**Mrs. Geary:** Tell me about a highlight from your first day at the workshop.

**Devin:** I liked when we did the skits. We did it off the top of our heads. She told us to improvise things...like, she said, "you're a group of clowns," and we'd had to all become a snapshot of a family of clowns. It was really cool.

**Mrs. Geary:** What was it like working with students from Betsy Ross Middle School?

**Melissa:** Some were shy and quiet, some were loud and outgoing. It was fun.

**Pauline:** I think they had more experience because they go to an arts school.

**Mrs. Geary:** Did that pose a problem for Amity students?

**Pauline:** They know the things more, but they didn't show off.

**Melissa:** They were really nice though.

**Devin:** They were really into it.

**Mrs. Geary:** What did you think of your teachers?

**Melissa:** My teacher was really nice, and funny, too.

**Mrs. Geary:** Did he seem knowledgeable?

**Melissa:** Yeah, he did. He made some jokes, and we all laughed at them, and he was really nice to work with.

**Mrs. Geary:** Pauline, you've worked with Ingrid Schaeffer before when you participated in ECA's summer program. What has your experience been like with her?

**Pauline:** I think she knows what she's doing. She has a lot of experience and she wants to share that with us. When she gives it to you, people can get overwhelmed, but they shouldn't, because it's a natural feeling when something is new to you.

**Mrs. Geary:** Are you excited about going back for Part II of the workshop?

**Melissa:** Yes! I want to see what the other groups are going to do. My friend Diana was in the other group and she said they had a lot of fun!

Congratulations to all who participated and expanded their theatrical horizons! ECA is an ACES interdistrict magnet school open to high school students throughout the region. Full-time students travel to ECA every afternoon where they participate in intensive classes taught by professional artists in theatre, dance, creative writing, music, or visual arts. Anyone interested in learning how to apply for the program should log on to ECA's website, <http://www.aces.k12.ct.us/schools/eca/index.asp>, or contact the school's director, Leo Lavalley, at 203-777-5451.

Rebecca Geary



## Computer Corner

Last month's recommendation of *Open Office* as a good alternative for students who do not have Microsoft Office applications on their home computers was prompted by our very knowledgeable technician, Denise

Figuroa, who had downloaded, tested, and suggested it. This month, on another tip from Denise, we recommend downloading the free version of AVG virus protection program.

Go to <http://free.grisoft.com/doc/1> to download the free version. Denise has used this in addition to other well-known virus software applications such as McAfee and Norton and says it has found viruses that they missed. The program can be set to update daily and is good added protection even if you own another anti-virus product. If you do not have anti-virus software on your machine, then this is a must. Unfortunately, it does not support the Macintosh OS.

Watch for another tip next month,

*Carolyn Stanley – Computer Technology Integration Specialist*



## School Telephones:

|  |                     |          |
|--|---------------------|----------|
| Principal                                | Richard Dellinger   | 393-4330 |
| Main Office                              | Anne McDonnell      | 393-3102 |
| Guidance                                 | Arlene D'Angelo     | 393-3103 |
| Attendance                               | Betty Beecher       | 393-3104 |
| Library                                  | Toby Zabinski       | 393-4038 |
| Assistant Principal                      | Suzi Greene         | 393-4109 |
| Nurse                                    | Kendra Luth         | 393-4039 |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Guidance Counselor | Karen Wojciechowski | 393-0291 |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Guidance Counselor | Paul Yashenko       | 393-0292 |
| Psychologist                             | Eric Bacik          | 393-3752 |

# Happy Holidays!

