



Newsletter

Amity Middle School – Bethany Campus – 190 Luke Hill Road Bethany, CT 06524
Visit us on the web at www.amityregion5.org

March 2006

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Students & Families:

The winter vacation is behind us...as, I hope, is the outbreak of winter colds, flu, and blizzards. March may seem to start “like a lion” since we will begin CMT testing and have several other activities. Here are some updates:

CMT Testing: We will be administering a CMT practice test on Tuesday, February 28. The actual CMT will be administered from Wednesday March 1 through Friday, March 10. Regular homework assignments will be reduced during the CMT administration. Students should not feel anxious. Teachers have done an outstanding job preparing students for this important assessment. Students should try to do their best, eat breakfast, and get a good nights rest before each test.

Nature’s Classroom: The seventh grade will be leaving for Nature’s Classroom on Monday, March 13 and will be returning on Friday, March 17. More details are outlined in this newsletter. E-mail updates will be sent home to all parents registered on the listserv directory.

Mid-Markers: Student mid-markers for the third marking period should be mailed home on Friday, March 10 along with a CMT brochure from the CT Department of Education..

School Musical: This year’s school musical, *Aladdin*, will be performed on Thursday, March 30 and Friday, March 31 at 7:30 P.M. at the Bethany Community School. Don’t forget to be there!!!

Please look over our newsletter and activity calendar for March. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Very Truly Yours,

Richard Dellinger

PTO MESSAGE

Welcome back from vacation. The Amity Middle School PTO is currently looking for parents who would like to become more involved at AMS. Please consider becoming a PTO Board or Committee member for next school year. If you are interested, please contact Nancy Nadelmann, Nominating Chair at 397-9049.

At the February PTO meeting, a counselor from the Rape Crisis Center in Milford gave an informative

talk to those in attendance. She was also scheduled to present a program on Healthy Relationships, Sexual Harassment and Internet Safety to students during their Gym class.

The PTO would like to thank Karen Lockhart, Karyn Malinconico and Nancy Nadelmann for setting up the Teacher’s Coffee and...on February 8, as well as the many parents for their delicious contributions.

The Amity sweatshirt sale has officially ended. Thank you to everyone

who participated in this fundraising project.

The March PTO meeting will be held in the evening on Thursday, March 16 at 7:00 P.M. at the Amity High School Cafeteria. There will be a brief business meeting at 7:00 P.M. and at 7:30 P.M. Superintendent John Brady will discuss budget and building issues. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please note the date, time and location. Hope to see you there!

Congratulations

To the 43 seventh graders (21%) and 48 eighth graders (24%) who made Honors I and also to the 24 seventh graders (11%) and 41 eighth graders (18%) who made Honors II. All total, 36% of our students made the honor roll for the second marking period!

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, Matthew Beland, Matthew Bernobich, Elise Bitterman, Hannah Block, Bradley Bortner, Jodi Brignola, Theodore Burt, Deanna Cho, Nicole DeChello, Williams Dixon, Yichen Dong, Jacqueline Duhl, Pauline Dutka, Ashley Emery, Emily Feng, Connor Foster, Samantha Friedman, Nathaniel Gallant, Ana Gonzalez, Jonathan Greengarden, Jamie Hillas, Arian Jadbabaie, Jenna Kahane, Joseph Keller, Joan Kim, Daria Koren, Lauren Larkin, Brenna Lilley, Julie Linker, Gregory Loscalzo, Alyssa Morrow, Colleen Oleynik, Jenna Park, Stella Protopapas, Alisha Roopchand, Rachel Rosenblum, Isabelle Sanchez, Kimberly Simon, Hannah Simpson, Emma Spiegel, Alessandra Vecchio, Andrew Wang

Honors II

Rachel Barbessi, Abigail Barrett, Daniel Ben-Chitrit, Julia Berv, Maya Brownstein, Rachel Cardozo, Kevin Dempsey, Matthew Harsche, Michael Haze, Nicole Hirshfield, Edward Hochman, Aikkiko Lassiter, Sin See Leung, Danielle McKinstry, Colin McNulty, Nicholas Nuzzolo, Caitlin Peterson, Alexander Pyne, Justin Sardi, Stephen Schulte, Jason Walker, Sophia Wirak, Christopher Woodington, Andrew Zielinski

Grade 8

Honors I

Rachel Amarante, Leslie Barrett, Julia Blanchette, Nikki Bloch, Alexandra Buda, Catherine Caracciolo, Kattie Chen, Jack Chen, John Cocco, Louis Concato, Laura D'Angelo, Alexandra Desir, Ian Farrell, Lauren Fox, Aliza Gans, Chelsea Geremia, Jennifer Green, Rebecca Han, Sandy Honig, Hannah Klein, Ewen Kronemeyer, Kaleigh Kurpiewski, Mary Li, Jimmy Liang, Alexandra Lopez-Vila, Rachel Mahler, Thomas Mattessich, Emily Nadelmann, Alexis Parente, Jennifer Peat, Sara Pines, Lucia Rieur, Lindsay Roffman, Sara Sampoli, Samuel Schnittman, Nikhil Shah, Alex Snyder, Dakota Spear, Rebekah Stein, David Steinmetz, Jack Sun, Steven Sviridoff, Aliza Taft, Robert Trachtman, Laura Van Dyck, Ivana Zakoworotny, Max Zaniewski, Yuqi Zhang

Honors II

Kenneth Adair, Marissa Bedron, Tayler Bennett, Thomas Bergman, Priyanka Bhargava, Nkenge Blue, Adam Brocklehurst, Jack Brunwin, Joshua Burger-Caplan, Michelle Burt, Steven Ciardiello, Dylan Cohen, Nathan Coutermarsh, Pauline Critch-Gilfillan, Jonathan DeMaio, Lars Demander, Benjie Ding, Daniel Duhaime, Sudhir Ganesan, Sophia Hart, Amanda Hershman, Jonathan Hess, Kevin Howard, Karen Hsueh, Ross Kahn, Margaret Luciani, Noah Lurie, Andrew Maude, Ruthie Medovnikov, Alexandra Migani, Lindsay Miller, Marla Morris, Rivka Oren, Jessica Pignataro, Colby Plaskowitz, Margaret Robinson, Chelsea Roffman, Julia Ruggiero, Julia Summers, Carolyn Taylor, Olivia Zajac

Also Congratulations to.....



Cafeteria manager Kim Stevens and her staff of Paula Velardi, and Betty Peck for getting their second 100% rating from the CT Department of Health this week. The cafeteria is rated several times each year for cleanliness, quality, and adherence to health department regulations. A 100% rating is a very difficult rating to obtain... especially in modular facilities.

Amity Reading Corner

By Eileen K. Kazdan – Reading Specialist

5 Easy Steps To Understanding What You Read

1. **Make predictions as you read.**
“From the title, I predict this section will tell.....”
“In this part I think we’ll find.....”
2. **Describe the picture you are forming in your head.**
“ I have a picture of this in my mind.”
3. **Share an Analogy**
“This is like the time.....”
4. **Verbalize confusing points** (monitoring your comprehension)
“This doesn’t make sense....”
“This is different than what I thought....”
5. **Use “fix-up” strategies**
“I’d better reread...”
“I’ll read ahead to see if it gets clearer...”
“I’d better change my picture of the topic to ...”
“This is a new word; let me use context to figure it out...”



SDRT (Stanford Diagnostic Reading Test)

On January 24, 2006, the entire 8th grade took the SDRT. This test helps to evaluate the students’ abilities to comprehend narrative text. Amity strives to have all students score above the 50% rank nationally. Those students who did not score above 50% will be recommended for one of two classes at the high school in 9th grade. They are: “Reading Advantage” or “Reading for Success”. For further information you may call your child’s guidance counselor or Mrs. Kazdan at the middle school.

Nurse’s Corner

Final Reminder for Spring Sports:

Please remember to have your child check with the nurse, the date of his/her last physical. A physical dated after June 14, 2005 is required for Spring Sport participation. This is district policy and no exceptions will be made.

Health Tip of the Month:

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, kids need 1300 milligrams of calcium per day, especially starting at the age 12 1/2 for girls and age 14 for boys. Only 10% of girls get the recommended 1300 milligrams daily.



See the chart below for calcium contents of food:

Total Cereal - 1 cup = 345 mg
Cooked Rhubarb - 1 cup = 235 mg
Dried Figs - 5 = 135 mg
Calcium fortified juice 1 cup 285 mg
Cooked Greens (beets, mustard, turnip, or kale) 1/2 cup = 100 mg
American Cheese - 1 oz. = 140 mg
Mozzarella Part Skim - 1 oz. - 205 mg
Low Fat Swiss Cheese - 1 oz. 350mg
Skim or 1% milk - 1 cup = 300 mg
Yogurt Plain nonfat - 1 cup 490 mg
Yogurt Fruited 2 % fat 1 cup 370 mg
Frozen Yogurt 1% fat 1 cup 175 mg
Raw Almonds - 2 oz. 150 mg
Northern Beans cooked 1 cup, 160 mg

This chart can be used as a guideline to help your child get adequate amounts of calcium. If your child is unable to meet these needs by diet alone, please contact your pediatrician regarding use of calcium supplements.

**Calcium
is Important !!**

Leo Club

On Friday, January 27, 11 members of the Leo Club went on a field trip (with Leo Club Advisor Deb DeMeo) to the Yale Eye Research Center in New Haven to talk to a researcher/scientist and view how Connecticut Lion's Clubs helped contribute to this extraordinary facility. They met with Dr. Ning Tian, a researcher who is working on degenerative diseases of the eye, and visited one his laboratories. They also took a tour of various examination rooms and learned about different machines that the doctors use to examine people of different

ages and with different needs. Many of the rooms displayed plaques of the various Connecticut Lion's Clubs that have made significant contributions to the Eye Research Center, and the girls learned how community groups, like The Lion's, can outreach to thousands of people in the community through wonderful facilities such as this. A very special "THANK YOU" to the Bethany Lions' (especially George McDonnell) who fully funded this trip for the Leo's, and to Perry Bus Company for providing the bus. It was a wonderful opportunity for the students to get out of the classroom and learn about medi-

cal careers, medical advances, and see how community groups make a difference in peoples' lives.

The Leo Club is also tentatively planning on doing two more "school wide fundraisers," though they may spill into the next school. So, look for the Bethany Leo's getting involved with the Fidelco Guide Dogs and "Locks of Love" soon!

Counselors' Comments



CMT ALERT!

(Connecticut Mastery Test)

When: March 1 through March 10 (8 days)

Who: All 7th and 8th grade students

Where: Individual Classrooms

Length: 8 days - one test each day in the morning

This test is required by the State of CT to measure student achievement.

Suggestions to Parents/Guardians/Students:

Preparation: Students should be well rested and have eaten breakfast.

Supplies: Please bring a calculator.

During the test: Follow directions, use practice materials, use time wisely, read carefully and check answers.

- Midway point of 3rd marking period is March 8. Mid-marker reports should be mailed home on March 10.
- Representatives from the Milford Rape Crisis Center were in physical education classes during the week of February 13. Topics discussed included: sexual harassment, healthy relationships, and internet safety. Students also viewed a sexual harassment video with the guidance counselors and school psychologist.
- The following students have completed their training as Peer Advocates. Congratulations! Shayna Benjamin, Christine Esposito, Amanda Hershman, Brianna Eisensmith, Lindsay Miller, Max Zaniewski, Catherine Caracciolo, Jennifer Peat, Alex Buda, John Cocco, and Michael Malinconico.
Peer Advocates will be working on Daffodil Sales for the month of March to benefit the American Cancer Society.
- Registration for next year grade 8 class will take place in March.

Computer Corner



A couple of students have borrowed the Open Office install disk. After installing the program on their home computers (which lacked the Microsoft Office application), they were able to open and modify Word documents with no difficulty. When they then brought the document saved in Open Office to school, it opened in Microsoft

Word just fine. (To review the original article on Open Office, use the following link:

<http://www.amityregion5.org/ajhsb/newsletternov.pdf>

Some eight grade students are now reading or will soon be assigned *The Diary of Anne Frank*. There is a wonderful website done all in Flash which gives an in-depth view into Anne's childhood prior to the family going into

hiding in the Secret Annex. It also examines many of Anne's other written pieces other than her famous diary. To view this wonderful site, use the following link:

<http://www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/online/af/htmlsite/story.html>

Carolyn Stanley, Computer Technology Integration Specialist



Attention 7th Grade Parents!

We are finalizing plans for **Nature’s Classroom** (March 13 – 17.) My “Last Minute Missive” will be available during the week after vacation – ask your child for your copy.

Drop-off and Pick-up information:

Monday, March 13 – Parents drop off campers **at school** by 8:30 a.m. **Due to regular school traffic and buses, please do not drop off before 8:00 a.m.**

Friday, March 17 – Parents pick up campers at 1:00 p.m. Luggage will already be here. Please make every attempt to retrieve all of your child’s belongings (including medi-

cation and bedroll/sleeping bag) before leaving for home. Parking **will** be a challenge, so bring lots of patience!

Special Arrangements:

Several parents have spoken to Mr. Randall concerning **Special Dietary Needs, Special Health Concerns, or Special Schedules** for the week. If you have not already done so, **please put this information in writing.**

We’re looking forward to a wonderful week of outdoor education and fun!

Helen Young
Grade 7 Foreign Language Teacher

Thank you from Mrs. Miller’s Period 4.....

to parent, Ms. Lori Welch-Rubin who spoke in their class on February 15. Ms. Welch-Rubin is a local attorney and spoke about the history of civil rights as it pertains to the law. Students were interested in asking questions about the trial scene in To Kill a Mockingbird, a novel they just finished reading in English. We also learned about racial inequalities that may still exist in courtrooms today. Thank you, Ms. Welch-Rubin for taking time out of your busy schedule and speaking to us.



Basketball Cheerleaders did a Great Job this Season.....thank you to.....

- Anne Weigold
- Florencia Colagiovanni
- Missy Holeva
- Rhianna Mendez
- Christine Benedict
- Julie Keyes

Many Thanks To.....

- PTO members for organizing and hosting the wonderful Valentine’s Coffee. The refreshments and food were delicious and greatly appreciated.
- Teachers Donna Stanford and Kathy Habersang and the Student Council for organizing the 100th Day of School Locker Decorating Contest. Also, thanks for organizing bouquets of lollipops as a Valentine’s Day fundraiser to support Starfish Foundation which helps children with aids.
- Reading Consultant Eileen Kazdan for organizing the 8th grade SDRT test and to the 8th grade staff who assisted.
- Teacher Debbie DeMeo (Leo Club Advisor) for making arrangements to take 11 Leo Club members to the Yale Eye Research Center.

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
Nurse	Kendra Luth	393-4039
Psychologist	Eric Bacik	393-3752
Assistant Principal	Suzi Greene	393-4109
8 th Grade Guidance Counselor	Karen Wojciechowski	393-0291
7 th Grade Guidance Counselor	Paul Yashenko	393-0292

Construction Update

Work is moving along very quickly with the renovations of the old “junior high” school building. The old roof has been completely removed, all

asbestos has been abated, and the new roof will be completed by mid March. The completion date is currently scheduled for October, 2006.