



NEWSLETTER

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

November, 2005

From the Principal

Dear Students & Families:

October was a very busy month with riveting play-off baseball, several religious holidays, incredible rain, and a host of school activities. We had assemblies to kick-off our "Character Education" program, a wonderfully successful eighth grade fitness day at Amity High School, seventh grade field trips to the Norwalk Maritime Aquarium, and several exciting boys and girls soccer games. In addition, teachers were committed to a very academic focus for students. Outlined below are some of the upcoming programs and other opportunities in November:

Special PTO Meeting: The next meeting of the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is Tuesday, November 1, at 7:00 PM in the cafeteria. There will be a special guest speaker - FBI Special Agent, Kathy Shumaker of the Cyber Crimes Unit. Special Agent Shumaker will talk about internet safety and crimes against children. She will answer any questions from parents/guardians regarding this important topic. Refreshments will be served!

Parent/Guardian email Directory: More than 60 families have signed up to be included in our new email directory. This directory will be used to notify parents of important news and information. If you would like to be included, please register by going to the following website
<http://listserv.amityregion5.org/archives/>

School Photos: School photos will be taken during the morning of Wednesday, November 2. Make sure your son/daughter has the photo package, which will soon be distributed.

Report Cards and Parent/Teacher Conferences: Report cards will be mailed on Monday, November 14. Included with the report cards will be request forms for parent/teacher conferences. Conferences will be held on Thursday, December 1 and Thursday, December 8 between 6:30 PM and 9:00 PM.

Construction Update: The next major phase of construction for the "old" junior high school building will be the removal of the old roof and the installation of the new roof. This project is planned to be done after normal school hours, during the next several weeks.

Thanksgiving Recess: There will be an early dismissal on Wednesday, November 23 at 12:14 PM, to begin the Thanksgiving Recess.

Please look over our Newsletter and activity calendar for November. If you have any questions, or concerns about any programs, activity, or construction issue, please contact me.

Finally, on behalf of all staff and students at Amity Middle School, our condolences to the Kurjanowicz family.

Very Truly Yours,

Richard Dellinger
Principal

PTO Message

The AMS PTO has been busy planning and doing! There was a Coffee and...for the teachers on October 26, and one is also planned for December 14. On November 1 the PTO will be holding its first evening meeting of the year at 7:00pm in the Cafeteria. At 7:30 pm there will be a special FBI program for parents on Internet Safety. Special Agent Kathy Shumaker from the FBI will speak. Need to get in touch with another family or student? The PTO Student Directory will be available soon! There are currently 176 PTO members. Have you joined? If not, it's never too late. There are blank membership forms in the school office. The PTO is looking to fill two openings. If you like to send notes and cards to people, then Corresponding Secretary is the spot for you. If you have a knack for communicating with the public, please consider chairing the Communications Committee. Amity District calendars are still on sale. Cherrydale and Cookie orders will be available for pick up on December 1. Coming soon for Winter/Spring 06, the Amity Middle School Clothing Line.

PTO Meeting Schedule for school year 2005-2006

Tuesday	November 1	7:00 PM (Evening)
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...

- Ed Rostowsky, interim Assistant Principal, for doing such an outstanding job over the past six weeks. All the very best to Ed as he once again returns to full-time retirement in Bethany.
- Student Council Advisors Kathy Habersang (science teacher) and Donna Stanford (English teacher) and the student council members for purchasing the outside flowers (mums) to beautify the campus. Special thanks to Ronnie Lawrence for transporting and planting them.
- Physical Education teachers, Rhett Shaw, Tom Elwell and Geri-Lyn Dubay, for organizing the 8th grade fitness day on Wednesday. Thanks to Karen Wojciechowski, for conducting a guidance session; our nurse, Kendra Luth, and the high school nurse, Ronnie Puleo, for doing the scoliosis screening; and the entire eighth grade staff for their assistance and cooperation. Special thanks to high school physical education chairperson Lenny Marazzi for organizing and enlisting the help of the high school staff. (Lenny also made arrangements for coffee and donuts). Finally, thanks to parents Mrs. Buda, Mrs. Downey and Mrs. Barker for volunteering all day long. This day was extremely successful! Many thanks for such a great experience.
- Seventh grade team leaders John Randall and Heather Goldstein for organizing the seventh grade field trips this week to the Norwalk Maritime Center. Thanks to all staff who helped chaperone (or cover classes) which made these trips so successful.
- Alan Greenberg from the JCC, Counselor Paul Yashenko, and the character education committee (Karen Wojciechowski, Noreen Julian and Eric Bacik) for arranging the special assemblies this past month as a “kick-off” for our year long character education program. The assembly, emphasizing the importance of Jackie Robinson, was a wonderful way to

introduce the nine characters which will be emphasized throughout the year. Also, thanks to Rhett Shaw, Denise Figueroa and Rob Fragione for their technical assistance.

- Music/band teacher Rob Fragione for his outstanding computer/music presentation at a special meeting for all his band member parents this month to help promote his on-line, computer/music lesson system. Rob is a master at motivating students to practice their instruments.
- Teachers Kathy Habersang and Donna Stanford for organizing the student council fundraiser, the sale of entertainment books.
- The seventh grade Randall Team for their special team day activities, in commemoration of Sputnik, launched on October 4, 1957.
- Nurse Kendra Luth for again offering “Nosh with the Nurse” groups for students. Students who “nosh” with the nurse will learn how to use the “new” food pyramid for good nutrition and physical fitness.
- Art teacher Sara Frank for applying to Best Buy for their \$2500 Teacher Award. We will know if her application is successful by January 16.

Congratulations to...

- School custodians Ronnie Lawrence, Robert Gill, John Pellicani and Stanley Tufano who received certificates of appreciation last month from Superintendent Dr. Brady for doing such a great job over this past summer getting our facilities ready for this school year.
- Our Korean School students Joan Kim, Deanna Cho, and Jenna Park for their outstanding performance in their Korean studies. Because of their academic success, as well as for their demonstrated humility, respect, courage, friendship and leadership, all three were selected to meet Governor Rell at her office in the capitol on Friday, October 7.
- Eric Bacik, school psychologist, on his recent marriage.

WELCOME TO.....

- Brenda Brenner, a long-term special education paraprofessional substitute for Amy Benton. Brenda began on Tuesday, October 11. She will work with special education teacher Jen Gibson until Amy finishes her student teaching assignment.
- **Welcome Back to** Assistant Principal Suzi Greene, who returned from her maternity leave on Tuesday, October 11.

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

Student Council members elected two officers at their last meeting on October 11. Congratulations!

Kyrsti Perkins - President
Nathan Smernoff - Vice President

The Homeroom representatives are as follows:

Grade 7

HR. 21: Teddy Ballou, Taylor Wright, Alexis Boyarsky
22: Christine Guo
23: Desmond Burns
24: Ashley Emery, Jeremy Cease
25: Dane Pallotto, Abby Barrett
26: Colin McNulty
27: Peter Amadeo
29: Michael Choiniere
30: Joanie Kim, Rhianna Mendez

Grade 8

HR 1: Alexis Parente, Max Zaniewski
2: Alison Nacca
3: TJ Bertino, Aaron Votre
4: Kiyon Bakhtiari, Christine Esposito, Matthew Luce
5: Shayna Benjamin, Nathan Smernoff, Kyrsti Perkins
6: Conor Keniry, Ben Merchant, Eric Stoltman
7: Alexandra Buda, Thomas Bergman
8: Rob Martino, Mike Malinconico

The sale of coupon books is now complete and soon the council will be deciding where the funds can best be used. Our first purchase was mums to beautify our schoolyard!

Last year the Student Council directed a school wide campaign to help Bethany resident Judy Rettig gather personal hygiene products. These items were distributed to the homeless who gathered for their Thanksgiving dinner at Christopher Martin's in New Haven. At our meeting in November, we will kick off this year's campaign. Each homeroom will have boxes in which to place donations of toothpaste, hand cream, tissue, shaving products, etc. We thank you in advance for what we know will be an overwhelmingly successful effort!



Microsoft Office Applications

Don't have Microsoft Office at home? Don't worry. OpenOffice is a free office suite which is multiplatform and multilingual. Offered by Sun Microsystems, the

download is absolutely free. If your children are frustrated because their computers do not have the key Microsoft programs (Word, PowerPoint, Excel) on their home computers, simply download the stable version of OpenOffice 1.1.5 to your home computer. Once it is installed, your child can bring home a Word document, PowerPoint, or Excel exercise. It will open in OpenOffice and can be modified and saved. When they bring the document back to school, the Microsoft applications will open it with the changes made. The program seems to handle graphics and formatting quite well. It also includes a pretty neat drawing program.

Mrs. Stanley, Computer Technology Integration Specialist, has a couple of CD's with the download saved on them if you don't have a fast internet connection. The download is about 65 MB and can take a long time with a dial-up connection. Have your child see her in Room 16 to borrow the CD. You can then copy the folder to your local hard drive and install the application.

Read more about the features of OpenOffice 1.1.5 at <http://www.openoffice.org>



Art Club

Art Club will be working with fimo clay which needs to be baked in an oven. We are looking for a donated toaster oven to use in school. Please contact art teacher Sara Frank if you can help.



Pumpkin Decorating

The end of September, the following students signed up to remain after school to decorate pumpkins: Desmond Burns, Heena Farishta, Natalie Asarisi, Rebecca Pite, Janna DelBuono, Holly Hickerson, Ricky DelBuono, Alexis Boyarsky, Benji Ding, Erik Kicinski and Tess Pellicano. Mrs. Frank, art teacher and Mrs. Zabinski, media specialist provided pumpkins and supplies. Once completed, colorful pumpkins were on display in the Media Center. Unique designs included witches, wolves, penguins, Indians, and the traditional pumpkin faces. The students had a great time and all received prizes for their creativity.

Counselors Corner

There was a Character Education Assembly held the week of October 12. Our Character Education Program this year began by highlighting Jackie Robinson: the player and the man. Mr. Alan Greenburg from our local Jewish Community Center was the guest speaker and emphasized Jackie's career and personal characteristics. Jackie embodied all the values we will emphasize this year including courage, determination, teamwork, persistence, integrity, citizenship, justice commitment and excellence.

Private School information including Open Houses' can be found in the Guidance Office. Platt Vocational Technical School in Milford will have an Open House on Thursday, November 3, at 6:30 PM. Interested students and parents should attend.

Connecticut Mastery Tests (CMT's) will be held during the first two weeks in March, 2006. All 7 and 8 grade students will be tested.

Peer Advocate Training began on October 18. The following students are involved in the Peer Advocate Program this year: Shayna Benjamin, Alexandra Buda, Catherine Caracciolo, John Cocco, Brianna Eisensmith, Christine Esposito, Amanda Hershman, Lindsay Miller, Jennifer Peat, Michael Malinconico, and Max Zaniewski. Mrs. Wojciechowski is the Peer Advocate advisor along with help from Mr. Paul Yashenko.



News from the Nurse

“Nosh with the Nurse” – The Nurse will be holding lunch groups where students can learn about the new food pyramid, read labels and choose healthy meals and snacks. Please have your child sign up with the nurse to attend or to get more information.

Sport Physicals – Winter Sports – Please remember, if your child will be playing basketball or doing cheerleading this year, they must have a physical on or after March 18, 2005. Up to date physicals are required for try-outs.

Substitute Nurses Needed! - The Amity district is looking for RN's to substitute in Bethany, Orange and Woodbridge. You can choose your school or be

available at all three. Call Debbie Farber at 397-4821 for more information or contact one of the school nurses.

Attention 7th Grade Parents/Guardians:

March will be a busy month at Amity Middle School – Bethany Campus.



The State Department of Education has established March as the month in which Connecticut Mastery Tests will be administered. This year both 7th and 8th grade students will be taking these important indicators of progress. Our middle school will be giving the battery of tests during the first two weeks of March.

Following the rigorous schedule of standardized testing, our seventh grade students will have an opportunity to get away from the Bethany campus and participate in the unique outdoor educational experience at Nature's Classroom in Colebrook, CT.



**Monday, March 13, 2006
Through
Friday, March 17, 2006**

A representative of Nature's Classroom will make a presentation to students in early December. After that presentation, we will distribute Information Packets and Registration Forms. We hope you will seriously consider encouraging your son or daughter to attend.

Watch the newsletter for more information on registering your child.

The Amity Middle School Leo Club is Back!

Although last year's advisor (Mrs. Staack) has moved to the high school, The Leo Club is back this year with Mrs. DeMeo as the advisor. The Leo Club is a community service club that is a “younger version” of the Bethany Lion's Club. Throughout the year, we will be organizing and participating in different activities that help people in our school, community, and world. Leo Club members are encouraged to participate in as many activities as possible, but we welcome ANYONE to join us, even if just once, on an activity that appeals to them.

We always welcome suggestions and opportunities to help people around us, so please contact Mrs. DeMeo if you know of any possible Leo Club activities or would like to join.

Lost and Found

We have two areas for Lost and Found items in our school. One is in the guidance area, and the other is in the secretary's office in the 8th grade modular. At various times throughout the year, two members of our secretarial staff take items from the lost and found and donate them to a nearby shelter.

We will be clearing out the Lost and Found on November 4. Announcements have been made and we encourage students to visit Lost and Found if they are missing books, coats, sweatshirts, etc. A few notable items located in Lost and Found include: a gray zipper Izod fleece, several lunch bags, sweatshirts and windbreakers.

Parents/Guardians Reading Corner

From Reading Consultant, Eileen Kazdan



Hints on: Reading a Textbook

Many parents have approached me with a common dilemma. "My child is doing his/her homework, but he/she has no idea what he/she read. They say it is boring. What can I do to help?" This is a very popular and realistic concern for parents.

Textbooks are students' primary learning tools, and reading a textbook chapter is the most common school assignment. Yet a common complaint among parents and students is that the children can not remember what they have read from the textbook. This happens because students are sometimes not aware that reading and studying from a textbook is quite different than reading from novels, magazines, or other casual readings. The following suggestions may help students comprehend and recall information from their textbook.

1. Have your child read the title of the chapter recalling what they already know about this topic. **Recalling background knowledge** is a key pre-reading aid to comprehension.
2. Call attention to the **study aides** of the chapter: *title, introduction, subheadings, pictures, captions, graphs, summary, and questions* throughout the chapter. Tell your child the

author included these study aids to point out important information.

3. Have your child use these study aides to **preview a chapter before reading**, in order to become familiar with the content and know what to expect. After the preview, ask your child what new information he/she has already learned before reading the chapter, and what information he/she expects to learn from the reading.
4. Have your child turn **titles and headings into questions**. Ask your child answer the questions.
5. Also, have your child **pose questions while reading**.

These pointers may be difficult to introduce all at once. Begin slowly with the steps, beginning with number one, and slowly introduce the other steps over a period of time. Mostly, enjoy the readings and time spent with your child. It will make the experience even more beneficial and rewarding for all.



Soccer Teams

The following girls are on the Bethany Middle School Girls Soccer Team: Kara Anderson, Sarah Bachenheimer, Abigail Barrett, Leslie Barrett, Marisa Bedron, Hannah Block, Jodi Brignola, Deanna Cho, Christine Esposito, Sara Foldy, Amanda Hershman, Jamie Hillas, Ashley Horvath, Rachel Katz, Brenna Lilley, Margaret Luciani, Meghan McGovern, Danielle McKinstry, Rhianna Mendez, Colleen Oleynik, Stella Protopapas, Alisha Roopchand, Ariana Saadat, Julia Summers, Cara Welch-Rubin, and Sophia Wirak.

The following boys are on the Bethany Middle School Boys Soccer Team: Michael Adamczyk, Kiyon Bakhtiari, Daniel Bar-Aharon, Dean Bhatt, Jack Brunwin, Nate Coutermarsh, Javier Cuatlatoa, Jorge Cuatlatoa, Daniel Foldy, Kevin Howard, Brian Kernan, Seong-Hun Kim, Michael Malinconico, Evangelos Milas, Wil Simon, Dave Steinmetz, Aaron Votre, Tyler Webster, and Max Zaniewski.

Other sports info.....Please remember all Non-High School age students **must** be accompanied by an adult into all Amity High School games. Those students attempting to enter without an adult will not be allowed to enter Amity High School games.



Blades for Grades

School is back! As the 2005/2006 Hockey Season approaches, the Bridgeport Sound Tigers have a new management team in place with a firm commitment to community service. In the spirit of our family, fun – oriented philosophy, the Sound Tigers are proud to introduce the Blades for Grades Program.

The Blades for Grades Program is easy to implement. For each child that achieves academic excellence in the form of straight A's, that child will be eligible to receive one free ticket (in the form of a redeemable voucher) to a Bridgeport Sound Tigers game of their choice. They merely need to present or mail the report card, accompanied by a completed Blades for Grades application, to the Sound Tiger's Office to receive one voucher per report card. Applications will be accepted up to four weeks after the end of the semester.

The Sound Tigers are thrilled to support and encourage our young academic fans and look forward to seeing you this year! For further details, please contact Jeff Sylvester at 203-334-GOAL.

ECA Drama Workshop Participants

Congratulations to the following students who were accepted to attend the ECA Drama Workshop: Lauren Fox, Ana Gonzalez, Diana Vogel, Amanda Fimbers, Marla Morris, Pauline Dutka, Nessa Risley, Sara Pines, Melissa Ottaviano, Rachel Mahler, Elizabeth Rule, Ariana Nardella, Benji Ding, Michael Montini, Lucia Rieur, Christine Guo, Alison Nacca, Cara Bryce, Pauline Critch-Gilfillan, Chelsea Roffman, Devin Diglio, Emily Nadelmann, Holly Hickerson, Joanie Kim, and Rachel Cardozo. Workshop dates are November 7 and November 21, from 9:00 – 11:30 AM. Students will be picked up here by bus at 8:00 AM and will return to school around 11:30 AM. Eighth grade students on the trip will eat C Lunch that day.

Harassment Is ILLEGAL

Sexual Harassment is prohibited based on Federal Law – Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and State Law – Sec. 10-15c. Harassment based on sexual orientation is also protected under State Law – Sec. 10-15c.

For Students: Sexual harassment is unwanted and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature which interferes with a student's right to learn, study, work, achieve, or participate in school activities in a comfortable and supportive atmosphere. You have a right to participate in all school and classroom activities in an atmosphere free from sexual harassment. You have a responsibility not to engage in sexual behaviors that are unwelcome or offensive to others.

Examples of Sexual Harassment include: unwelcome sexual advances, suggestive or lewd remarks, unwanted hugs, touches, kisses; requests for sexual favors; retaliation for complaining about sexual harassment, derogatory or pornographic posters, cartoons, or drawings.

If you have questions or believe that your or others are being harassed, contact:

District Title IX Coordinator: Debbie Farber, Amity Regional District #5 Central Office – 25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, CT 06525, phone 397-4821 email - Debbie.Farber@reg5.k12.ct.us

Building Title IX Coordinator: Dr. Richard Dellinger, 397-4330, email – Richard.Dellinger@reg5.k12.ct.us

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 th Grade Guidance Counselor	Karen Wojciechowski	393-0291
7 th Grade Guidance Counselor	Paul Yashenko	393-0292
Psychologist	Eric Bacik	393-3752