



NEWSLETTER

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

October, 2005

October PTO Message

Welcome Back! The first PTO meeting of the school year held on September 6 in the Media Center, was well attended. Dr. Dellinger reported that the first day of school went smoothly. He also mentioned that the teachers, staff and administration were busy planning for the Parent Open House on September 15. Dr. Dellinger thanked the PTO for hosting the annual Teachers Back to School Luncheon, which was greatly appreciated by everyone who attended. A huge thank you to Karen Lockhart and Kate Luciani (Hospitality co-Chairs) for all of their preparation and cooking to make this event a success. The Fundraising Committee is busy planning this year's Fall Fundraiser which will include Cherrydale Farms and something new for cookie lovers and bakers: Frozen Cookie Dough. Catalogues and order forms will be sent home at the end of the month with each student. The PTO is a sponsor of this year's Amity District Calendar. Stay informed and never miss an important school date...Purchase a calendar. **On Sale for \$10.00.**

Did you know that the Library purchased the latest Harry Potter book with money donated from the PTO? The PTO furnished the gift baskets for this year's Silent Auction and were the master bakers at this year's Bake Sale during the Open House. This event raised \$900.00. Thank you to Debby Pines and Cindy Smernoff (Fundraising co-chairs) for spearheading this kick-off fundraiser and to Chris Tambis, Mary Beth Morley and other members of the PTO who contributed baskets and baked goods. And thank you to all the parents who purchased baked goods and raffle tickets and put bids in for the gift baskets. The Amity Middle School Telephone directory is also a PTO production and is a very vital and useful tool to have. These are just a few of the wonderful contributions that the PTO makes to enhance life at Amity Middle School. Remember, it's never too late to become a PTO member. **Membership is only \$10.00** and each member receives a Student Telephone Directory. Blank membership forms are always available in the school office. Send in yours today!

Look for notices of upcoming PTO sponsored events in the School Newsletter. **Our next meeting is Monday, October 3 – 9:00AM in the Media Center.**

We hope to see you there!
Janet Hershman and Judith Hess (co-presidents)

AMITY MIDDLE SCHOOL Bethany New Staff – 2005-2006

Melissa DeRose – Melissa will be joining the staff this year as an intern/substitute and student teacher from Quinnipiac University. Melissa completed her B.A. in Mathematics from Quinnipiac last May, and is currently working on a Master's Degree in Teaching. She previously completed field work at Hamden Middle School and at Hamden High School.

Sue Dial – Sue, an experienced health teacher at Orange Middle School, will be joining the Bethany Staff this year and will be teaching two classes of eighth grade health. Sue has worked in the Amity Regional School District for the past 14 years.

Noelle Fazio – Noelle, originally from New York, is also joining the staff this year as an intern/substitute and student teacher from Quinnipiac University. She received her B.A. in Mathematics from Quinnipiac last May and is currently working on a Master's Degree in teaching. She did field work at Hamden High School and was a teacher's assistant in Wallingford.

Jennifer Gibson – Jennifer will be teaching eighth grade special education classes this year. Jennifer received both her B.S. and M.A. in education from the University of Connecticut. For the past five years she taught at the Octorara Middle School in Atglen, PA, where she also coached soccer, basketball, and softball. Jen also spent one year teaching at Washington Middle School in Meriden, CT.

Thank you to...

Nicole Knott – Nicole will be teaching two classes of eighth grade English and two classes of eighth grade Social Studies this year in Bethany. Nicole attended Sacred Heart University and received her B.A. in History in 2004 and her M.A. in Reading in 2005. She was an intern in Ansonia Middle School where she also completed her student teaching. Nicole has been a volunteer in Bridgeport's elementary schools, a classroom learning assistant at Sacred Heart University, a teachers' assistant for the Cooperative Educational Services, and a classroom teacher at the Playschool Discovery Center in Oxford.

Lisa Meyer – Lisa will be teaching seventh grade special education classes this year. Lisa received her B.A. in Psychology/Education from Marist College in 2004. Last year she taught self-contained classes in the New School in Stratford, CT. Lisa will be a familiar face since she is a graduate of Amity High School and attended the junior high school in Bethany. She has also worked at the JCC and the Beecher Road School in Woodbridge.

Alison Nork – Alison will be teaching two classes of eighth grade Science for the 2005-2006 school year. Alison has a B.A. in Biology and a B.A. in History from the University of Connecticut. She also has a M.S. in Science education from Southern Connecticut State University. Alison was a Science teacher/tutor for the Naugatuck Continuing Education Program for the past six years. She taught Science at Naugatuck High School, Danbury High School, Danbury's High School Alternative School, and was an academic advisor for an Upward Bound Program. Alison happens to be a community member, and lives in Bethany.

Tracy Roberts – Tracy will be teaching two eighth grade Math classes in Bethany this year. Tracy received a B.S. in Mathematics and an MED from the University of Massachusetts. She received a MFA in Writing from Goddard College in 2000. She is also fluent in French. Tracy has taught at the Community College of Vermont, Burlington College, St. Michael's College, the University of Vermont, at the Centre Ecole de Langues in France, as well as at Winchendon high school in Massachusetts. Tracy is currently writing a novel while also teaching part-time at Quinnipiac University in the freshman writing program.

Elizabeth Coords - our newest special education paraprofessional, who began working on Monday, September 8. Liz lives in Woodbridge and is a graduate of Amity High School. She also attended Amity Junior High School. She received her AB in criminal justice from Salve Regina University in 2002 and is pursuing a master's degree in school counseling. She will be working with Lisa Meyer.

- Paul Thees, varsity volleyball head coach, for breaking the Amity High School record of 259 wins!
- The entire staff for doing such an outstanding job at Back-to-School Night. Generally, teacher's rooms, bulletin boards, and parent handouts were outstanding! Parents frequently commented to me about the quality of our staff and how well their children are doing in Bethany. Thanks to Ronnie Lawrence, Ed Parshall, and Robert Gill for volunteering to direct traffic. Thanks to Anne McDonnell for helping in the office. Special thanks to Paul Mengold, athletic director, and the Bethany Fire Department for lending us portable lights for the parking areas.
- Donna Stanford and Kathy Habersang, student council advisors, for organizing student elections this week.
- Eileen Kazdan and Toby Zabinski for organizing "The Governor's Summer Reading Challenge" raffle and cake celebration for students who did summer reading. Special thanks to the PTO members Andrea Ryan, Rachel Statlender, Janet Hershman, Elaine Emery, Karen Lockhart and Sherrie Bitterman for their assistance.
- All students and staff for raising an amazing \$3,610 for the American Red Cross and another \$600.63 for Save the Children. Special thanks to Amy Steinmetz, a senior at AHS, and David Steinmetz, grade 8 in Bethany, for arranging to have the Nestle Company provide matching funds for all donations made to the American Red Cross.
- Eighth grade students Kyrsti Perkins, Tom Scanlon and Nathan Smernoff who all volunteered to do homeroom announcements and the Pledge for this year. Thanks to Kathy Habersang for recruiting the volunteers.
- The entire Bethany staff for such a wonderful start to the '05-'06 school year. The classrooms are extremely well decorated and the entire facility shines. Most important, students were greeted by a warm, caring, and dedicated staff. Thanks for having such a great start and all your work!
- The PTO volunteers, Janet Hershman, Karen Lockhart, and Kate Luciani for providing a wonderful welcome back luncheon on Monday, August 29 for the entire staff. The flowers, decorations, and delicious food were all greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to...



SPORTS INFORMATION

- Carolyn Stanley, our computer tech facilitator/teacher, for having an article published in the September edition of "Learning and Leading with Technology" magazine. The article is about an art project she did with art teacher Carrie Mulqueen last year and involved manipulating art projects using Photoshop.
- Kim Stevens, our cafeteria manager, on receiving a perfect 100% inspection rating by the Quinipiac Valley Health District this week. Kim has done a great job with our food services!!
- Chris Diehl and Heather Goldstein, who were two of thirteen teachers who received a Learning and Leadership Grant from the NEA Foundation for the Improvement of Education.
- Eric Bacik, school psychologist, on his recent engagement! Eric's big day will be Sept. 30.
- Teachers Geri-Lyn Dubay, Thayer Doyle, Kathy Habersang and Jen Bruch for the successful completion of the CT BEST program!

BUILDING GOALS

The four school goals for the Amity Middle School this year will be:

- Continue to improve home/school and interschool communication.
- The implementation of the CMT improvement plan, to improve student performance.
- The maintaining of 7-12 curriculum articulation with the new administrative structure.
- Continue with the middle school renewal and the successful implementation of the team leader structure.

Welcome New Students to Bethany Middle School and the Community

Grade 7

David Clark
Yichen Dong
Joan Kim
Amanda Kim
Sin See Leung
Rhianna Mendez
Andrew Reichbart
Rebecca Swimmer
Sheng-nan Zhao

Grade 8

Daniel Bar-Aharon
Raven Coleman-Tucker
Samantha D'Onofrio
Samuel Gelertner
Karen Hsueh
Ashley Marie Leiva
Lingyue (Mary) Li
Alexandra Lopez-Vila

Due to a change in the Amity Regional School District practice, free sports physical examinations will no longer be offered prior to the start of each sport season. In order for student-athletes to be eligible to tryout/participate, they must comply with the Amity Regional School District/C.I.A.C. physical examination requirements which are stated in the Student-Athlete Handbook.

The latest possible dates for an acceptable physical exam are as follows:

FALL 2005	November 30, 2004
WINTER 2005	March 18, 2005
SPRING 2006	June 14, 2005

Exact dates vary from year to year to comply with C.I.A.C. seasonal dates. These dates should serve as a guideline when planning for your child. Physical examinations must be dated after the above mentioned dates and prior to team tryouts to be considered valid physicals. If you have any questions, please contact the certified athletic trainer or school nurse in your child's building.

TO ACCESS ALL SPORTS SCHEDULES:

Go to <http://www.casciac.org> Once there, go to the menu on the left, and hover over the **C.I.A.C.** button, and then on the fly-out menu, click on "**view schedules/results**". On the next page, scroll down to the sports schedule you wish to check, and click on "**regular season schedules/results**". When the next page loads, scroll down to your school and click on "middle school". You can also access that website by going to the Amity Website at www.amityregion5.org and on the top menu click on Athletics, then click on Sports Schedule.

Harry Potter Book #6 Celebration

Have you read Harry Potter and the Half-blood Prince? If not, you still have time. Come to the **Harry Potter Celebration** on November 15th from 2:30 to 3:30 PM. There will be refreshments and many great activities such as games, puzzles, magic recipes and more! Read Harry Potter and the Half-blood Prince and join us. Sign up in Room 14 with Mrs. Kazdan to secure your spot for a fantastic time. Owl invitations will be sure to reach you as a reminder.



Nurse's Corner

1. **ALERT!!!**– Due to the presence of a child with a **Severe LATEX ALLERGY**, it is necessary to create a **Latex Free** environment in our school. Most important is the elimination of any products containing latex; especially **Balloons, Gloves, Elastic Bands and Koosh Balls**. Please keep this in mind when bringing any product into school for a scheduled party, special occasion, or science experiment. Be mindful of the products information. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.
2. Please remember to hand in all physicals and/or required immunizations to the nurse's office as soon as possibly to avoid potential exclusion from school.



DRAMA WORKSHOP

On Monday, November 7 and Monday, November 21, music/drama teacher Rebecca Geary will accompany a select group of 25 students from Amity Middle School in Bethany to a special two-part drama workshop at the Educational Center for the Arts in New Haven. Under the guidance of professional artists and teachers, students will play theatre games and perform improvisation and movement exercises. Through these games and exercises, students will problem solve and work on communication skills, self-growth, self-discipline, and teamwork. Once students feel comfortable in this new environment of dramatic exploration, they will be encouraged to follow their own creative instincts.

While space was limited, Mrs. Geary applied for the workshop early in September, and Amity was lucky to be chosen to participate along with three other area schools. The unique program is being offered free to students through an interdistrict cooperative grant from the Connecticut State Department of Education. Students who are interested in attending the workshop should fill out an application and turn it in to their homeroom teachers. Application forms are available now in the main office. Please turn in your form on or before Monday, October 3 to the Main Office or to Mrs. Geary.



The Governor's Summer Reading Challenge

Governor Rell challenged all students to read as many books during the summer as possible, and our students at Amity Middle School have risen to the occasion. Not only have students read the mandatory two books for Amity curriculum, but have surpassed that by reading many more. Our school in Bethany has 437 students that read **2,292** books. Our statistics will be sent in to the State Department of Education to see how we fare against other schools.

To honor our students' efforts, we had a Summer Reading celebration on September 16. Students were given raffle tickets according to the number of books they read. We pulled five winners for each team. The winners chose a new book from a wide selection. The winners were: Samuel Gelernter, Taylor Bennet, Diana Vogel, Jessie Pignataro, Cara Welch-Rubin, Kevin Howard, Eric Najmowicz, Najja Salmon, Shaquille Pigatt, Rachel Celotto, AJ, Pauline Dutka, Jesse Sanchez, Carolyn Stevens, Jenna Park, Rebecca Swimmer, Danny Quarequio, Joey Keller, Penelope Papanikolaou, and Lauren Rascati. **All** students received a celebratory piece of cake and fun was had by all.

We would especially like to thank Lori Bonney from the Media Center with helping the students make their book selections, and PTO moms Janet Hershman, Karen Lockhart, Andrea Ryan, Elaine Emery, Rachel Statlender, and Sherrie Bitterman for all their help passing out cake to hundreds of students. They helped make this celebration run smoothly and successfully.

Congratulations to Amity Middle School students for such a job well done.

Eileen K. Kazdan – Reading Consultant
Toby Zabinski – Media Specialist

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

The Amity Middle School Student Council has held elections for the new school year's homeroom representatives. Congratulations to all the students who volunteered to become involved in the Student Council and were chosen by their homerooms to serve. A very big thanks also goes out to all the homeroom teachers who took the time to organize and hold elections in their homerooms. We greatly appreciate it. The Student Council meets the first Tuesday of the month after school. Some activities and causes supported by the Student Council have been sale of the Entertainment Books, raising money for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation and Relay for Life-American Cancer Society, as well as money for last year's Tsunami victims. We've also collected personal hygiene supplies to donate to the homeless at Thanksgiving and Toys for Tots. Meetings are open to all students who wish to be involved in the Council. You do not need to be an elected representative to attend and be a part of this group of dedicated students.

Entertainment Books are coming! Once again, the Student Council is offering New Haven County Entertainment books jam-packed with valuable coupons for many area businesses. As early as September 23, books should be coming home with your students. The cost of the books is \$25. There are a limited number of Fairfield and Hartford County books available and books for other counties/ states can be special ordered for a \$5 surcharge. The Student Council uses the sale of these books as our only fundraiser, with which we support a variety of school and community projects including student leadership conferences.



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

CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE RECIPIENTS OF SERVICE AWARDS AT BETHANY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Five Years:

Lori Bonney – Secretary
Rebecca Geary – Teacher
Ronald Lawrence – Custodian
Thomas Norton – Teacher
Stanley Tufano – Custodian

Twenty Years:

John Randall - Teacher

Thirty-Five Years:

Shelia Bohan – Teacher
Karen Wojciechowski – Guidance Counselor
Helen Young – Teacher

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The November 1 PTO Meeting will feature a guest speaker from the FBI who will speak on Computer/Internet Safety and Security Issues. The meeting will be at 7:00 pm in the Library Media Center.

PTO Meeting Schedule for school year 2005-2006

Monday	October 3	9:00 AM
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)