



# AMSB PTO Meeting

Friday, September 2, 2016

## **President's Report:**

- 1.) The PTO sent off a directory envelope for every household. Please make sure that you send in for a directory. The directory lists all of the AMSB students and staff for the 2016-2017 school year.
- 2.) Some requests for money have come through that are being evaluated. One is for the Fabulous Friends program which is similar to the Best Buddies program. AMS-Orange already uses this program so AMSB would like to be consistent across the Amity school system and use the same program. A \$1000 donation to this program was approved unanimously by the PTO board.
- 3.) Dr. D discussed the new "Be A.M.I.T.Y." program - Accountable, Motivated, Independent, Trustworthy, & Your Best Self. AMS-Orange Middle School has a similar program, STAR, that Dr. D. learned more about over the summer. The AMSB program became a reality over the summer, though it's not budgeted for in the 2016-2017 school year. Mrs. Wissink, 8th grade Social Studies teacher, Team Black, presented the program to the PTO. Last year, 8th Grade Team Black had piloted a similar program, called "Team Black". Posters are up throughout the school and everyone is expected to "Be A.M.I.T.Y.". Raffle tickets for A.M.I.T.Y. behavior are being passed out by the teachers which the kids can deposit into raffle prize containers at the Media Center for g.c.'s to some of the student's favorite items, such as iTunes, Starbucks, etc.. Another set of tickets are also being passed out from the teachers where the students can enter a raffle for such classroom activities as teacher for a class period. The Be A.M.I.T.Y. posters which cost AMSB \$596 and the additional cost of about \$400 for student prizes, totalling \$1000 was requested by Dr. D and Mrs. Wissink to be paid for by the PTO. The \$1000 was approved.
- 4.) Open House is 9/15 this year. Its a fundraiser with gift baskets that are raffled and have a theme for each homeroom. Please check Dr. D.'s email to determine what types of items to send in with your student as prizes based upon their homeroom assignment. NO prize item will be turned away and will be used in whatever appropriate basket it should be placed into. Please make an effort to send in at least 1 item with your student. The baskets need your donations! The raffle usually raises about \$600 for the PTO.
- 5.) Amity Wear is continuing to being sold. Dr. D. will post a link for the site. The site is open all school year with closings to allow for the orders to process. Once the orders are processed, the site reopens for additional sales. Any questions concerning Amity Wear should be directed to Beth Kupcho.
- 6.) Everyone can register their Stop & Shop reward cards where points go to the school. Sign-ups will again be at the Open House to make it easy for parents to help the school take advantage of the

program. ShopRite will also allow us to have our parents register their rewards cards. This program had been paused by ShopRite in the past, but its up and functioning again.

7.) Lastly, PTO committee sign-ups will occur during the Open House event. Every parent is encouraged to help the PTO in any way possible. Especially, there are Monthly Coffee And . . . events for the staff and teachers which really need donations from parents. It's nice to have a large group of parents to donate for the events so that the same parents are not constantly being asked to donate.

8.) Dr. D also sends off a weekly Friday update e-blast which highlights the AMSB activities and events. Please make every effort to read these thoroughly. Tons of valuable information is included each week that you might not hear about, otherwise, from your student.

9.) **KidStuff . . . and more** coupon books are being distributed soon. The students sell for only 2 weeks. Teachers each receive a free book for assisting with the program - tracking the book sales and returns, etc.. We thank them for their continual support of the PTO. The PTO had this program in 2013. We'll be doing this program again this year as a test to see its success. Books will be distributed by mid-September. Each book retails for \$25 with the PTO will get \$12.50 per book.

### **Principal's Report:**

1.) This year, instead of wire shelving which breaks, our custodial staff suggested permanent shelving which is bolted into the locker. The new shelves, 25 per team, have been added for a total of 100, allowing greater durability to the lockers and better usage by the students who were fortunate to get a locker with the new shelf system. The PTO paid for the 100 added this year and is working on funding the balance of the student lockers in the near future. This is another reason why the Open House raffle baskets need your donations and raffle tickets - funds from the event will help to offset the cost of the locker shelving.

2.) There are new staff for the 2016-2017 school year — Ms. Silva-Patrano (Gold Team) and Mr. Martin (Black Team) are both for 8th grade Spanish. Ms. Perrotti is our new 8th grade Gold Team English teacher to replace Mrs. Matthews who will be greatly missed. Mrs. Matthews found a position 7 minutes from her home and her child care facility. Mrs. McGonigal is out on Maternity leave and has a wonderful substitute with Ms. Gross. Ms. Heiss is subbing for Mrs. Benton until she comes back in October. Ms. Serio is our new Strings teacher. Lastly, we have a new school psychologist, Ms. Laudati.

3.) *S.T.A.R.* testing will begin next Thursday and Friday. The testing is 3x per year and up to 5x a year for those children that need more monitoring.

4.) Picture Days are the end of next week.

5.) 8th grade Parent Meeting for the Washington Trip will occur on 9/15 AFTER the Open House.

6.) Sports start Tuesday with a meeting from 2-2:18pm. Soccer and volleyball has try outs. Cross country does not have cuts. Practice is during the school week. The 2 forms need to be filled out electronically and must be turned in prior to your child participating. Physicals are needed to have been done by 11/15.

7.) Colleen Inclima and Tammy Ryan volunteered during the meeting to be Parent Representatives for Tools for Schools which meets 3x per year at 2:30pm. This committee discusses school safety standards.

8.) 9/11 is having its 15th Anniversary. At the end of the school on September 12th, there will be service activities, such as writing thank you cards to our fireman, police, etc. Mrs. Wissink is coordinating the program for the school. There will be about 5 activities to choose from which will occur during the last hour of the day. The kids will learn about 9/11 during the day and then have the activities at the end of the day.

9.) Parent Portal for Power School is a great way to track your student's activities and grades.

10.) Mrs. Benton is out with breast cancer. She will be coming in when she can to teach with 16 weeks of chemo therapy. Mrs. Wissink can be contacted directly if you are interested in helping through a GoFundMe site.

### **Faculty Representative Report:**

1.) Mrs. Nall is our fantastic PTO Teacher Representative, again, this year.

2.) 7th graders are adjusting well. The 8th graders are also happy to be back, overall.

3.) The students are earning raffle tickets that are put into baskets for g.c.'s for Be A.M.I.T.Y. behaviors.

4.) There will be a pep rally to hype up Be A.M.I.T.Y..

5.) New electronics usage policy - red stop sign equals keep it out of view and off, yellow stop sign means limited usage based on teacher permission, green stop sign means go ahead for social interactions with games, etc. in accordance with school rules BUT no social media. Violations will cause phones to be taken away till the end of the day. Multiple violations will mandate calls to the parents.

6.) A technology overview was given to all students. Amity email is really important for a means of teacher communications, in addition to Team websites.

7.) The 8th grade Washington D.C. trip will have its meeting on 9/15 after Open House and 7th grade Nature's Classroom will be later in the school year.

8.) Amity Fun Run is in its preliminary stages.

9.) For the 1st Day, every student posted their hopes which are up throughout the school. Students wanted to be liked and have a memorable experience, which ranked higher than their desire to have great grades.

### **Woodbridge Youth Services:**

1.) 7th Grade picnic was a few weeks ago with a DJ which was a great event. Thanks to everyone who volunteered.

- 2.) Back to School Bash is Friday, September 16th and they're looking for volunteers.
- 3.) Mrs. Nall helps coordinate activities at the school, such as kickball tournaments, etc.
- 4.) Woodbridge runs a Job Bank for Woodbridge. If you know of a student looking for some work, have them register. Also, any parents having jobs around the yard, babysitting, etc., please call the Job Bank to have your activity posted. There currently isn't a job for Bethany, but its still being evaluated.
- 5.) After school programs for Tuesday & Thursday for cooking and photography will be happening soon. There are also prevention programs that will come up during the year.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Treasurer:**

- 1.) We currently have a budget surplus of \$10k. The PTO gave approximately \$8,500 last year towards the 8th Grade Party and events.

#### **Hospitality:**

- 1.) Teacher Luncheon was on Thursday, August 25th and was a great success. Monthly Teacher Coffees will happen again this year. Dates to be determined.

#### **Fundraising:**

- 1.) LifeTouch gives us \$1 for each child/adult who gets their picture taken, no matter whether students buy their photos or not. Amity Wear has open and closed purchasing periods. When ordering Amity Wear, please list your child's name not the parent's name. Orders are distributed to your student at school for them to bring home their new items.
- 2.) Kids' Stuff books are \$25 for sale. We get \$12.50 per book and the PTO gets to send back all extras at no cost to the PTO.
- 3.) There is soon to be an AMSB cookbook chaired by Tammy Ryan with assistance from Donna Amendola and Kim Ahern.

#### **Directory:**

- 1.) PTO Directory Envelopes went out in the August Packets. The deadline is September 16th for ordering.

#### **Graduation Party:**

- 1.) Allison and Donna are c-chairing the event. It'll be at RaceBrook Country Club again this year. The date is set for Friday, June 2nd. The students are asked for their input since its their event.

**Secretary/Correspondence:** All outstanding correspondence has been sent out. PTO meeting notes, once approved by our Co-Presidents, Kim and Donna, they are posted to the website from Mr. Doyle.

Meeting was adjourned until next meeting.