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# Amity

## Regional District #5

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Working Toward Achieving Our...

### Working Toward Achieving Our Mission Statement

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### ARHS Happenings Newsletter



Welcome to the first Friday of December! We ended last week with our Day of Gratitude and sent everyone off to enjoy a relaxing and rejuvenating Thanksgiving weekend. We came back to school on Monday ready to continue to do good work at ARHS. Students and teachers are focused on making it happen in the classroom, on the stage and in the gym—a commitment to the “three As” of academics, arts and athletics. Next week, the entire school will take part in viewing the fall play *Our Town* on December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. We welcome the 8<sup>th</sup>

grade students from both middle schools on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, to take part in a tour of the high school, presentation from the administration followed by a viewing of *Our Town*. This is the first step in our welcome to the class of 2021 and the first part of the process of student scheduling for the 2017-2018 school year. We will also host parent conferences on Wednesday, which will mean we will not be running late buses on Wednesday. The PTSO is hard at work collecting donations for our annual holiday basket donations. Please consider donating to support local families in our community. Through our work inside and outside of the school walls, we are well on our way to realizing the tenets of the high school mission statement "to create an inclusive community that affirms the contributions, strengths, and talents of all of its members. We bear a responsibility to ourselves and to the school community to develop in all students the skills and the desire necessary to become contributing members of a just society." Have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,

Anna N. Mahon  
Principal

### High School Happenings and Information

**Health Survey for 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades:** We will be conducting the district-wide health behavior survey during Spartan Seminar for all 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders on Tuesday. Students are encouraged to bring their electronic wifi enabled devices to complete the survey, which should take between 15-20 minutes. Please refer to the correspondence sent by Superintendent Dr. Dumais from early November for more information.

**Referendum Vote:** A referendum vote will be held in each of the District's member towns of Bethany, Orange and Woodbridge on Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. at their usual polling locations on the following question:

"SHALL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 5 APPROPRIATE \$2,065,000 AND AUTHORIZE BONDS AND TEMPORARY NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT FOR VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS AT AMITY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND AMITY MIDDLE SCHOOL, BETHANY CAMPUS?"

The Regional Board Secretary's explanatory text with respect to the referendum question, as authorized pursuant to State statute, was mailed to all residents of the District on November 29<sup>th</sup>.

**PTSO Holiday Basket Donations Needed:** Every holiday season the Amity High School PTSO supports a family in need from Bethany, Woodbridge and Orange. If you would like to donate please contact your local town coordinators listed below. Monetary donations or gift cards to Walmart, Stop & shop, Target and Kohls are the most helpful so we can shop and meet the family's needs in the best way possible. All donations can be sent into AHS main office by **December 9<sup>th</sup>** so we have time to shop and prepare the gifts for delivery. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Bethany- Eileen Babbitz [eileenebean@aol.com](mailto:eileenebean@aol.com)

Orange- Durga Anumolu [danumolu@hotmail.com](mailto:danumolu@hotmail.com) or Anna Mahon [Anna.mahon@reg5.k12.ct.us](mailto:Anna.mahon@reg5.k12.ct.us)

Woodbridge- Lynn Estra [lfestra@gmail.com](mailto:lfestra@gmail.com) or Nancy Nadelmann [karolnadelmann@yahoo.com](mailto:karolnadelmann@yahoo.com)

**Early Dismissal/Parent-Teacher Conferences:** The third and final round of Parent-Teacher conferences to review 1<sup>st</sup> quarter performance will be Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 12:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. The school day will operate on an early dismissal schedule and students will be dismissed at 12:16. Virtual Paragon will be available, space permitting, for registration until the evening of December 5<sup>th</sup>.

**PTSO Update:** 2016-2017 student directories have been mailed to all families who joined the PTSO this year. You can still join, a limited number of additional directories are available. If you are a member and did not receive a directory, please contact Wendy Frieden, [wendy.frieden@yahoo.com](mailto:wendy.frieden@yahoo.com). The next PTSO meeting will

be Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 in the library. Thank you for supporting the PTSO.

**Mid-Marking Period for 2<sup>nd</sup> Marking Period:** The mid-marking period for second quarter will close on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. Please check PowerSchool for updates on student progress.

**Hour of Code:** Various classes at ARHS will be participating in the “Hour of Code” program over the next few weeks to introduce students to computer science. The program (found [here](#)) is designed to demystify code by demonstrating that anybody can learn the basics of computer programming. Computer science helps nurture problem-solving skills, logic and creativity and helps to create a foundation for success in any 21st-century career path.

**Fall 2016 PSAT Results:** On Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, online score reports for the PSAT will be available for all students who took the test in October. Students will need to access their College Board accounts for their scores. We will be focusing a Spartan Seminar activity for all 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade on accessing results and next steps. Access this [College Board link](#) for more information.

### Important Reminders

**BOW Parent Breakfast:** Please join us in this community conversation and learn more about your local BOW collaborative and the supports that are available to parents and families. Information can be found [here](#).

**Parent-Conference Sign Ups:** The parent-teacher conference sign up continues to be open through [Virtual Paragon](#) through December 6<sup>th</sup>. Please take some time to review your child’s report card and have a discussion with your child and remember that teachers are available for conversations, by appointment, after school or to have a phone conversation at any point. If you are unable to meet with a teacher during the allotted parent-conference schedule but would still like to set up a time to talk, please contact that teacher directly and he/she will get back to you to set up a time to talk.

**Amity Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Visiting Day:** On December 9<sup>th</sup>, the 8<sup>th</sup> grades from each middle school will be visiting the high school to begin the orientation process to the Program of Studies and to watch the ARHS fall play *Our Town*. More details will follow.

**Amity High School Trident Newspaper:** The Trident school newspaper can now be found [online](#). It is posted by Valley Publishing; the November issue is currently available.

### Notes from the Counseling Department

**Local Scholarship Opportunity-Big Y Foods:** In tribute to both its employees and its customers, Big Y offers an annual scholarship program. This program offers over 300 scholarships each year totaling \$250,000. All scholarships recognize academic merit and achievement and are awarded to the most academically outstanding students in the Big Y area. In addition, there is a scholarship program to commemorate Big Y’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary that recognizes the contributions in the area of Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters, and a category acknowledging the tremendous sacrifices made by the Military Service Members and their families. All Big Y employees are eligible regardless of residence. The application deadline is **February 1, 2017**. Applications are available in the Career Center.

**CarterCares Scholarship:** The law offices of Carter Mario Injury Lawyers are offering (5) \$2,000 scholarships to Connecticut high school seniors who will be attending college in the fall of 2017. To learn more, visit [www.GetCarter.com](http://www.GetCarter.com) All applications must be postmarked no later than March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Please visit the Career Center with any further questions.

**Career and College of the Week:** This year the Career Center will highlight a complementary career and college of the week. This week, the career is [Computer and Information Systems Manager](#) and the college is [Pennsylvania State University](#). Students will receive an e-mail that details aspects of the varying careers and colleges. Students can also view the bulletin boards in the Career Center and/or speak with the Career Center staff for details.

**WCSU Direct Admission Day:** [Western Connecticut State University](#) will hold a Field Admission Day at Amity Regional High School on Friday, December 16th. Interested seniors may meet with a WCSU admission's representative on-site. WCSU admissions representatives will review completed applications and provide on-the-spot admission notifications. Students must apply through [The Common Application](#) or the WCSU application by December 9th. Interested seniors are asked to speak school counselors or see Mrs. Vallie in the Career Center to schedule a meeting.

**Community Service Texts:** If your child is interested in learning about upcoming community service opportunities, please have them sign up for Remind notifications from the Career Center. Please have your child **text the message @amityserve to 81010**. When the Career Center hears about a community service opportunity, we will share it with our service-minded students.

**SAVE THE DATE-Post-Secondary Planning Night for juniors:** A planning night for current juniors will be held on January 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Brady Center. Parents and students are strongly encouraged to attend. Ann Fleming-Brown, Director of Admissions at Union College will be presenting on the college and university search and application process.

**SAVE THE DATE:** A Gap Year Fair is being held on January 11, 2017 at Fairfield Warde High School from 6-8:30 pm. For more information, please visit this [site](#).

### What's Happening in Athletics?

**Athletic Department Website:** For all information regarding practice and athletic schedules for winter sports, please refer to the athletic department's website [here](#).

**Winter sports start next week:** Tryouts for winter sports start over the weekend and into next week. The days and times are posted on the Athletic Website. Registrations must be submitted and approved prior to tryouts.

### Community Happenings:

**Student volunteer opportunity:** There are various volunteer opportunities, such as child care, food pantry help and senior center holiday fair, open to ARHS students and toy donation initiatives. If you are interested, please contact Nancy Pfund at 203-389-3429, or email [NPfund@woodbridgect.org](mailto:NPfund@woodbridgect.org) or Woodbridge Senior Center Director Jeanette Glicksman at 203-389-3430.

**Woodbridge families in need** should contact Woodbridge Human Services to apply for fuel assistance, toys for children 12 and under, and food. Deadline for toy applications is 12/15/16.

Amity District Office: 25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, CT 06525 | Phone 203-397-4811

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