

In the Middle



December 2011

From Administration

Season's Greetings From The Administration

As the Holidays approach, we hope everyone has an opportunity to spend time with family and friends during this joyous season.

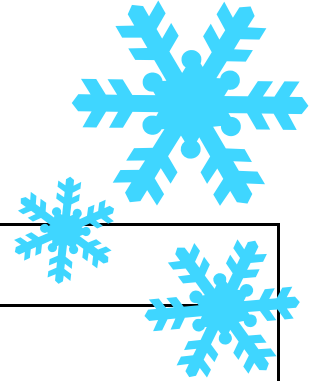
Hopefully, you and yours have much to be thankful for. To live under an umbrella of freedom, in wonderful towns that always find a way to keep their charm and support our children and our schools, even in the toughest of times, makes us blessed.

Not everyone is so lucky. Our hearts go out to the impoverished, the downtrodden, the cold and the hungry this holiday season. So many of you already do so, but if you are able, please take a moment to help someone less fortunate than yourselves. Thank a fireman, a policeman, or a soldier for all they do to secure our way of life. Think about the men and women of our armed forces away from their homes and their loved ones during the holidays, especially those in harm's way.

Happy Holidays to you and your family!

Pam, Patty and Port

Dates to Remember



December 23-January 2	No School—Winter Recess
January 3	Classes resume
January 4	Winter Team Pictures
January 6	Dance-Grades 6, 7 & 8; 7- 9:30pm <i>(sponsored by the Jr. Women's League)</i>
January 9	NO LATE START FOR AMS <i>(late start for SHS only)</i>
January 10	Late Start Primary Day
January 11	Title I Parent Meeting—11:00am (room TBD)
January 13	Friends of Rachel Movie Night 6:15-8:30
January 16	No School—MLK, Jr. Day
January 20	Dance grades 6,7, & 8: 7-9:30pm
January 23	Parent Presentation: Executive Function Workshop 6:00pm (Room TBD)
January 26	Band Concert, Grades 7 & 8; cafe 7-8:00pm
January 31	NO LATE START FOR AMS <i>(late start for MVVS and SHS only)</i>

Nursing Station



Please make sure that your children wear their jacket, hat and mittens with proper footwear (boots, water proof shoes) to school each day if appropriate.

The nurse's office reminds all students and their families that we are committed to keeping all health and wellness information private. We value our trusted position in the community. If there are issues that might be affecting a student's emotional health, whether it be worry over schoolwork, or issues surfacing at home; we encourage you to share with us, so we can better assist students through their school day.

We are in need of donations for cough drops. There has been a large volume of students who drop by asking for them and now our supply is gone. Thank you in advance for all you do to support our AMS community.

Happy Holidays!!

Your School Nurse's



Susan Sarraf and Ann Benoit

¡Lea, lisez, read!

AMS library catalog: <http://library.sprise.com>

Holiday Greetings:

It's the time of year when it's possible to forget that you wanted to give one more present or forgot a niece, nephew, or grandchild. Here are some suggestions:

	<p>Realistic: Selznick, Brian <i>Wonderstruck</i></p> <p>Having lost his mother and his hearing, both within a short time, twelve-year-old Ben leaves his Minnesota home in 1977 in search of the father he never knew. His journey takes him to New York City. There he meets his father and Rose, who is also longing for something missing from her life. Ben's story is told in words; Rose's in pictures.</p> <p><i>content for: grades 5-8</i></p>
	<p>Poetry: Rosen, Michael J. <i>The Hound Dog's Haiku: And Other Poems for Dog Lovers</i></p> <p>The behavior and characteristics of twenty dog breeds are described in this selection of poems that are presented in haiku format.</p> <p><i>content for: grades 5+</i></p>
	<p>Fictional biography: Ryan, Pam Muñoz <i>The Dreamer</i></p> <p>A fictionalized biography of the Nobel Prize-winning Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, who grew up a painfully shy child, ridiculed by his overbearing father, but who became one of the most widely-read poets in the world. Includes author's note about the poet.</p> <p><i>content for: grades 6-8</i></p>
	<p>Bucholz, Dinah <i>The Unofficial Harry Potter Cookbook</i></p> <p>Yes, they still like Harry Potter. Find here recipes for food mentioned in the HP series: treacle pudding, Kreacher's onion soup, mashed parsnips – all under heading such as “Breakfast Before Class,” “Recipes from a Giant and an Elf,” “Lunch and Dinner in the Dining Hall,” etc.</p> <p><i>content for: anyone who loves Harry Potter</i></p>

And don't forget AMS e-books can be easily read on a Nook, iPad, iPod (*not as easy*), or a home computer. Let me know whether you need the instructions for access.

Happy Holidays! S. Haldane (AMS librarian, media specialist) shaldane@sprise.com

Some Middle School Reminders

Lost and Found

Please have your child check lost and found regularly for any missing items. Lost and found is located in the cafeteria near the vending machines. Smaller items like jewelry, eyeglasses, phones and i-pods can be found in the office.

Forgotten Items



If your child has forgotten anything at home and you choose to bring it school for them, you can bring the item to the office and your child's name will be put on the Electronic Message Board. These boards are located on the first and second floors of the core building and outside of the office. To limit disruptions to the classrooms, your child will not be called to the office. It is the student's responsibility to check the message board for their name.

Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices



All cell phones and electronic devices (i-pods, etc.) must be turned off when students walk into the building and must remain turned off until students leave the building at dismissal. The first time a student is found to be using a cell phone or other electronic device at school, the device will be turned in to the office. The student will be able to pick up the device at the end of the day with a letter home. The second time a student is found to be using a device in school, it will be turned in to the office and the parent will have to come in to retrieve the item.

Phone Calls



There are phones in the main office or nurse's office available for student use in case of emergency. With permission, students are able to call home from any classroom in the building, not just from the main office or the nurse's office. If you have caller ID, you may see "Town of Amherst" pop up on your ID screen. Since the student may call from any room, it does not necessarily mean they are calling from the office or from the nurse's office. The office staff may not know why your child called you. Please ask your child to always leave you a message if they can't reach you. This will make it easier for you to determine if there is an emergency or not.

Please make every effort to arrange pick-up plans or play-dates before or after school. There is a lot of information on the school website to help parents plan ahead for after school arrangements.

Band and Chorus News

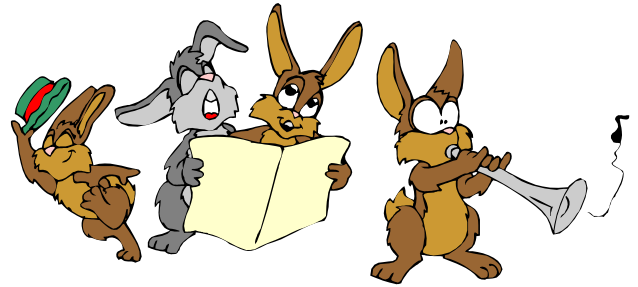
Happy Holidays from the AMS Music Department!

December has been a busy month for the Amherst Middle School Music Department.

Going by the numbers, 269 AMS chorus students performed 21 different songs at multiple performances, including two public concerts, the 7th grade Oxfam hunger banquet, as well as in-school concerts and caroling.

The AMS Jazz Band and 8th grade band also presented in-school concerts this month, with public band concerts coming up in January.

Mr. Ballard (chorus) and Mr. Brunelle (band) would like to thank all the AMS band and chorus students for their hard work, and would also like to thank the parents of our students for supporting their childrens' involvement in the performing arts!



**PLEASE CHECK THE SCHOOL WEBSITE
FREQUENTLY FOR UPDATES AND INFORMATION!**

AMS@SPRISE.COM

7th Grade Oxfam Hunger Banquet

On Tuesday, December 21st, 2011 the 7th graders at AMS participated in the 6th annual Oxfam Hunger Banquet, a culminating event for the entire 7th grade following a research paper on humanitarian organizations. This event has unified the entire grade and has served to integrate all of the core curriculum areas into one unit that focuses on global issues around the world. Larry Ballard directed the 7th grade choral and solo performances, while Deb Curran coached six incredible students who acted as the Master of Ceremonies for the entire event, while Debbie Hinrichs, Sue Wilson and Linda Farrington guided students in their video performances and production. Student videos, skits and poetry entertained and informed the attendees during the two hour event. Peter Warburton, Carrie Morneau, Nicole Heimark and Maryanne Buonadonna from the SAU attended this year's event and drew low income tickets as they entered, joining over 60% of the 7th grade audience to sit on "seats" of newspaper on the gymnasium floor, representing the 60% of the world's population who live on inadequate food. The \$845.13 that was donated by the attendees will go directly to OXFAM America. The students were informed at the event that this donation amount would help to dig a well, stock a cereal bank, and supply a tribe of goats for a village, in addition to providing a family with mosquito nets and a dozen chicks. The yearly successes of the Oxfam Hunger Banquet have helped our students to see that one person CAN make a difference.



Liam Conway and other 7th graders sign the Oxfam Welcome Banner as they arrive



Low income ticket holders are asked to stand and are told the good news, that they have recently found work and will be moving to a middle income meal seat.



7th graders produce a Humanitarian Organization Chair in Industrial Arts for the AMS Lobby



Mr. Ballard leads the 7th Grade Chorus performance at Hunger Banquet



World Hunger is highlighted by the Field Team



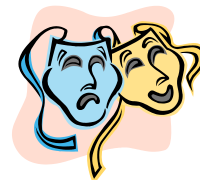
7th grade high income ticket recipients count their blessings at the High income table



Ashley Cui- 7th grade low income ticket holder dines on a simple bowl of white rice

Amherst PTA 60th Annual Play

Oklahoma! Auditions



Oklahoma!, the first musical written by famed composers Rodgers and Hammerstein is coming to the Amherst PTA! The perfect show to celebrate 60 years of wonderful community theatre with its uplifting story, beautiful scenery and popular music. The story is set in Oklahoma territory, with cowboy Curly McLain and his budding romance with farm girl Laurey Williams. Cowboy Will Parker and his fiancé', the flirtatious Ado Annie liven the story with their trials and tribulations. Jud Fry, a farm hand soon gets in the way of Curly and Laurie for an unusual love triangle.

The original Broadway production of Oklahoma opened in 1943. It was a box-office smash and ran for an unprecedented 2,212 performances. In 1955, Oklahoma was adapted for the screen, winning 2 Academy Awards starring Shirley Jones as Laurey and Gordon MacRae as Curly. The 2002 Broadway revival experienced similar success, being nominated for seven Tony Awards. With hit songs like Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin', The Surrey with the Fringe on Top, I Can't Say No, People Will Say We're in Love, and Oklahoma, it is a show not to be missed.

Auditions will be held Tuesday, January 3rd from 6 – 8pm and Wednesday, January 4th, 6 – 8pm with possible callbacks Thursday, January 5th. Mandatory first rehearsal and parent meeting is Sunday, January 8th from 1 – 5pm. Auditions are at Clark School, 14 Foundry Street in Amherst. Please come with sheet music, prepared to sing, preferably a song in the style of the show and to learn a few dance steps.

Show dates are April 12th – April 15th at the Souhegan High School Theatre.

*THE STAFF AND FACULTY AT AMHERST
MIDDLE SCHOOL WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL
OF OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES A SAFE
AND HAPPY WINTER RECESS!!!*

