

A MESSAGE FROM MR. HARRINGTON

Where has the school year gone? The holiday season is in sight and before you know it, we will be in the New Year. I hope that each one of you has an enjoyable and relaxing holiday season. This is a great time of the year to recognize all the people who make Anacortes Middle School a great place for kids. I am thankful for the opportunity to be the principal of this school.

A huge thank you goes out to the Anacortes Middle School PTSA. Without their involvement, many of our activities and programs would not happen. We have parents who are baking cookies and cupcakes, putting together the newsletter, planning dances, managing "Hawk Pride Awards," "Student of the Month" programs, and have assisted with Open House and the fundraiser. Thank you all!

We had a very busy fall conference event at AMS. Thank you all who came to meet your student's teachers and to check in with how they are doing. It was a busy five and half hours for our staff but very well attended!

Our student have been very busy designing and installing a patio in the back of the Garden to Kitchen room, observing and investigating different phenomenons and science experiments in science, creating escape rooms and problem solving in Escape Room elective and getting HAWK TV up and running. It has been great getting into to classrooms and watching our students interact with their peers and other adults.

We have Winter Band (Dec. 11) and Choir (Dec. 12) concerts coming up, we hope you can get out and support our students.

A special recognition goes out to Mr. Crane

and his Leadership Class for an outstanding Veterans' Day Assembly that was held on Friday, November 9th. The students did an outstanding job recognizing our Veterans and students whose families are in the military! Special "Thank You" letters were written to family members and shared with our students! What an amazing and moving tribute to our military families.

Lastly, I would like to thank the entire staff for their continued hard work. Our staff is putting extra effort towards improving instruction and working hard with a very tight schedule. Teachers are putting in additional time to make sure students are able to comprehend the curriculum and also providing tutoring sessions in many subjects. I hope you have an opportunity to thank our teachers for the great work they are doing here for the students of AMS!

Some dates to remember in December:

- **December 5-** Arena Sports Field trip for fundraiser prize
- **December 11-** Band Concert @ AMS Gym 6:30
- **December 12-** Choir Concert @ AHS Commons 5:30
- **December 14-** AMS Winter Bash
- **December 20-** First day of winter break
- **January 3-** First day back from winter break

Your continued support at home is needed to ensure student success at school. As always, if you have questions or comments, please feel free to call me at 293-1230.

Patrick Harrington
Principal

A MESSAGE FROM MR. PERKINS

Dear Students & Parents,

We just finished up an undefeated season for the Boys' Basketball 7th & 8th Varsity teams. JV only lost once! **Go, Hawks!** I always hear from other schools and our coaches how well our teams perform. They are hard working, coachable, and nice people.

A new club will be starting up next week. Mr. Tiland will be running Fitness Club after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students will need a sports packet filled out, a current physical and \$10. JOIN UP - GET BUFF!

Thank you for you and your student's support! As a team, we can do great things. And thank you for staying in touch. I have a couple of requests that would potentially work in favor of all of us.

Please consider:

- It is getting much better as we teach our students how to be smart on their phones. Please have them turn off all phones, computers, etc when they go to bed. When the rare incident occurs centered around bullying, harassment, bad pictures, etc., it happens late at night **and** at home. Thanks for your continued vigilance!
- **If your student is absent, please excuse them within 48 hours of their return.** If not within that time frame, by state law, we have to mark that absence as unexcused. When this happens at 3, 5, 7 and 10 unexcused absences, we are duty bound to start a variety of truancy proceedings. Let's not go there!

Merry Holidays to all of you! Thanks for your support with your child and trusting us with them all day. This is a fantastic school!

- Mark Perkins

PLEASE JOIN THE PTSA

We meet the second Wednesday of every month. Our next general board meeting will be held on **Wednesday, December 12th at 6:30 pm** in the AMS Library.



It's never too late to sign up to be a member! Visit our website www.AnacortesPTSA.com and pay online - it's that easy! We welcome all questions, concerns, and comments- please contact us at anacortesms.ptsa@gmail.com

A LETTER FROM THE PTSA PRESIDENT

I can't believe that December and the Holidays are upon us already. This year is going by so fast! The PTSA has had a successful last few months and that is because of everyone who has pitched in to help. **THANK YOU!**

Happy Holidays!

Speaking of volunteers, we will be needing a few for the next Leadership Bash, **The Deck the Hall Ball**, which is scheduled for Friday, December 14th. We will be needing volunteers for lunch time ticket sales the week leading up to the event, as well as chaperones the night of the ball. Please email the PTSA at anacortesms.ptsa@gmail.com if you would like to help volunteer.

If you haven't had a chance to attend a PTSA meeting, it's not too late! We've discussed school safety concerns, both off and on campus. We're also assisting with the funding of the Hawk News, Special Education Equine Therapy, Escape Room supplies, After School Study Hall Snacks, and much more. Please join us in making these important decisions and all the ways we can assist serving our students and staff. Our meetings are held in the Library at AMS on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:30. We are very mindful of your time and keeping the meetings to an hour. These are busy times and we appreciate you taking yours to help support our wonderful school!

The PTSA has some great things in the works, and I'm excited to be able to share more information with you soon. I'll just say that 2019 will be eventful!

Wishing all of you a safe and happy holidays from all of us on the PTSA Board!

-Jeanine Dickison
AMS PTSA President



GRAB YOUR DECK THE HALL BALL TICKETS!!

Tickets for Deck the Hall Ball will be on sale starting Tuesday, December 11th-14th, during all lunches. Grab your tickets early-they are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. Don't miss a fun evening put on by the Leadership class!



STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

These students were chosen by AMS staff for their academic excellence or classroom performance

HAWK PRIDE

These students were chosen by AMS staff for displaying some type of good citizenship and behavior

Addy Conley	6th	Cicotte	Tatum Olsen	8th	Mr. Crane
Anna Friedrichs	6th	Cicotte	Tyler Olson	6th	Cicotte
Kai Wallace	8th	Rozema	Charlize Yaun	8th	Holboy
Aileen Kim	8th	Holboy	Kale Hargett	8th	Kirby
Ashlee Long	8th	Kirby	Macey Bethke	8th	Rozema

ANACORTES SERVICE CLUBS HONOR AMS STUDENTS

Kiwanis looks for students who show strong progress in citizenship, community involvement, and academic improvement, but may not necessarily get public recognition commensurate with their achievements.

Kiwanis
Student of the Month
Sarafina Dunlap



Soroptimists search for the positive character traits of responsibility, justice, honesty, courage, respect, love, loyalty, and hope.

Soroptimist
Student of the Month
Angela Luevanos



ABOUT THE STRENGTHENING FAMILIES PROGRAM:



Tuesdays January 15- Feb 26
Seven sessions - one session per week
5:30 - 8:00 pm
Mt Erie School 1313 41st St Anacortes
Dinner will be served to your family
Supervised activities for children under 10
Enrollment limited to 15 families
\$35 per family for entire course
Sponsored by Anacortes School Dist & Skagit County Health dept

Families will learn to make the most of the Teen Years

- Have fun playing games together
- Solve problems together
- Discuss what makes your family strong
- Strengthen family communication

PARENTS/CAREGIVERS LEARN:

- What to expect from their adolescent children
- Over a dozen tools for effectively parenting teens
- How to set limits and show love

YOUTH LEARN:

- How to resist peer pressure
- How to handle angry feelings and manage stress
- How to choose positive friends

For more information or to sign up - please visit sfp.wsu.edu or email kate.foster@wsu.edu

SCHOOL VOLUNTEER POLICY



The Anacortes School District requires all new and returning volunteers to submit a yearly volunteer application and receive clearance PRIOR to any service in our schools. In addition to school day volunteers, the policy also applies to any school-related activity such as PTA/PTSA, booster clubs, activity clubs, AVID and athletics, among other activities essentially, any situation where a volunteer representing any school-sponsored activity has potential access to students.

To apply, please follow this link: <https://apps.raptortech.com/Apply/NDU4OmVuLVVT>

For more information, contact Keiko McCracken- kmccracken@asd103.org, (360) 503-1208

A MESSAGE FROM OFFICER DOTZAUER

Hello Hawks,

It is that time of year where it is getting darker when you arrive at school, so I want to take this time to give you a few reminders. If you are walking or riding your bicycle make sure you wear clothing that is easily seen in the early morning hours by drivers. You should also make sure that you cross safely at designated crosswalks. For those of you who are arriving by bus or parents make sure that you pay attention to your surroundings when getting out. Watch out for other cars, buses and bicyclist when coming into the school.



Be Safe,

Ofc. Travis Dotzauer

School Resource Officer



A QUICK HOUSEKEEPING NOTE:

Please pick up your lost items!

We have put a barrel of clothing out in the Gym Lobby. Small items such as glasses, keys, and jewelry are in the Main Office. **ALL items will be donated to charity at the end of every month.**

Thank you!

AMS SPORTS SCHEDULES

Come Support Our Hawks!

AMS Sports Schedules will no longer be on our website. All sports schedules will be posted on Northwest Athletics Conference at

www.nwathletics.com/index



Counselor's Corner

Shawn Flynn (A-K)

Renaë Newall (L-Z)

Monique Starkovich - Registrar Secretary

Heather Malone - School Psychologist

Kara Fox - Counseling Intern

THE AMS HOLIDAY STUDENT SPONSOR PROGRAM IS HERE!!

This is a great way to give back and to help our students this holiday season. If you are interested in sponsoring a student or family in need of Christmas gift assistance, tags are available in the Counseling Center. If you are unable to pick up a tag, you can send an email to Renaë Newall at rnewall@asd103.org. Renaë will send you the tag information electronically.



HOW TO HELP TEENS DEAL WITH HOLIDAY STRESS

Manage Your Stress: The most important thing you can do to help your teens is to manage your own stress. Not only does this help lower the contact stress they get from you, it also helps ensure you will notice the signs of stress in those around you. Managing your own stress level also helps model healthy stress management techniques for your teens.



Notice the Signs: Pay attention to how your teens are handling the holidays and look for the signs of stress like headaches, trouble sleeping, angry outbursts, or unusual moodiness. Spotting these signs is key to providing the support your teens need when their stress levels are high.

Understand the Impact of Big Changes: Major life events like a divorce or the loss of a loved one are difficult but they can become even more difficult during the holidays. If your teen has experienced this kind of life changing event, be aware that they may be more stressed or struggle with stress more this year.

NEWS FROM CAREER & COLLEGE OUTREACH

Dear AMS families,

Though your student's high school graduation seems far away, do you wonder what career or educational pathway they will follow? Do you worry about how it will be paid for?



ACCO has two events coming that may help you in your planning, and ease some of your worries.

On January 14 there will be a Financial Aid Night for all families in the district younger than seniors. This is a first for our school district! We'll outline how you can plan for this important investment in college and career education after high school. You'll learn how to estimate what costs will be, as well as how much and what kind of financial aid your student may be eligible to receive. You'll hear tips to help your student maximize the aid she/he may receive.

The December ACCO meeting **has been cancelled**, as it's such a busy time of year. Wishing you a very happy holiday season, and please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Shay Schual-Berke

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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER IN DECEMBER:

- December 5th- Arena Sports Field trip for fundraiser prize
- December 11th- Band Concert @ AMS Gym at 6:30
- December 12th- Choir Concert @ AHS Commons at 5:30.
- December 14th- AMS Deck the Hall Ball 6:30 - 9:00
- December 20th- First day of winter break
- January 3rd- First day back from winter break



AAU SLIDES AND GEAR

The AAU Anacortes Program is selling customized Anacortes “A” Slides where you can add your student’s name (or nickname) to the sides. These are great for the pool, the gym and the fields and are not sport specific.



We are also selling AAU Fan Gear on our website including sweatshirts and shooting shirts. Buy online now: WWW.ANACORTESAAUSTORE.COM

All proceeds will go to help pay for tournaments and scholarships to the AAU program. The orders close mid- January for an early February shipment.



Newsletter for the Anacortes Middle School and the AMS PTSA 8.2.60

**2202 M Ave.
Anacortes, WA 98221
360-293-1230
www.ams.asd103.org**

Patrick Harrington - **Principal**
Mark Perkins - **Ass't Principal**

PTSA Board Members

Jeanine Dickison-President
Heather Monkman-Vice-President
Rachel Kretchmer-Secretary
Romany Kerr-Treasurer

Newsletter Editors

Romany Kerr &
Heather Monkman