

A LETTER FROM MR. HARRINGTON

We have had a great start to the school year! The pace of school is starting to pick up, as we have just completed the first quarter of the 2018-19 school year! I want to thank all the parents for their hard work in getting their students ready for the middle school, especially our 6th graders! Our Counseling Department gave an initial survey to our new 6th graders and were very happy to hear that out of 161 students, 8 students felt that they had a hard time transitioning to AMS. This is a testament to our staff, you (our parents!), and our 8th Grade WEB Leaders! On November 7, AMS students will be taking a survey that's designed to measure their perspective on the school environment, their relationships with school adults, engagement in learning and their sense of purpose. We will use this data as we continue to focus on the Social Emotional Learning of our students here at AMS. We plan to give the survey again in the spring to look at the results of our work throughout the year!

Our annual fundraiser was a success as our school reached and surpassed our goal. We raised over \$50,000 dollars in sales! Our campout was a success as well, collecting over 100 lbs of food for our food bank. Thank you to all who stopped by and donated food!

I want to send out a huge thank you to our PTSA, Nate Dunham's Escape Room Class, Chris Crane and our ASB Leadership class for a very successful "Graveyard Glow Out Bash". We had just under 530 students dancing, racing in the obstacle course, playing basketball, going through a haunted library, and trying to get out of an "Escape Room". I also want to give a shout out to all the volunteers who chaperoned and made this happen! Go, Hawks!

Our ASB Leadership class will once again honor our Veterans on November 9th with a Veteran's Day Assembly. It will take place in the afternoon at 1:00. If you would like to attend, please RSVP with the main office so we know how much seating we will need, and check into the office on the day of the assembly.

Our Fall Conferences are set for November 20. Our conference schedule is as follows: afternoon conferences (12:00-2:35 pm), evening conferences (4:30-7:30 pm). This is an arena style conference. Staff will be located in the Commons. Parents will pick up progress reports and meet with staff for about 5-10 minutes. There are no set schedules; just drop in and visit with your student's teachers.

All of you should have received your student's SBAC (Smarter Balanced) scores from last spring. If you have any questions regarding this information, please call and we will discuss the scores with you.

- **No School- Monday, November 12-Veterans Day**
- **Early Release Nov. 19, 20, 21(No late start on 21st)**
 - **Afternoon Conferences Nov. 20 from 12:00-2:35 pm**
 - **Evening Conference Nov. 20 from 4:30-7:30 pm**
- **No School Nov. 22 and 23- Thanksgiving Break**
- **All early releases are at 10:45 and class schedules for each day will be period 1-6 with abbreviated periods.**

As always, if you have any questions or comments, please contact me at 293-1230.

Patrick Harrington, AMS Principal

Hello AMS Families,

We just finished Fall sports with a large number of participants. Our Girls' JV and Varsity Soccer teams were undefeated this season and we had 1st place finishes in the finals in Cross Country for both 8th grade Girls and Boys, including an overall championship. Way to go, Hawks!

Next up is Boys' Basketball and Girls' Volleyball. Sign up and check it out! All sport schedules, venues and times can be found at NWCathletics.com. Please subscribe for the best way to know the accurate details.

School attendance rates are up from last year! Thank you, parents and students, for getting here each day and on time! If your child is absent, please be sure to contact us either by phone or email within 48 hours or it will go down as unexcused...and we don't want that!

Homework Center started this week for those who qualify. This is a great way to get one-on-one help with a teacher in whose class you may be struggling.

Ask for help! It runs Monday through Thursday from 2:15 to 3:05.

Lastly, we appreciate your help with disconnecting from electronics at night with your student. It's paying off with better attendance, less discipline issues, and higher grades than we have ever seen before. Your work as parents and your support has continued to make AMS a great middle school!

Go, Hawks!

Mark Perkins



Attendance

PLEASE JOIN US!

We meet the second Wednesday of every month. Our next general board meeting will be held on **Wednesday, November 14th at 6:30 pm** in the AMS Library.



It's never too late to sign up to be a member!

Visit our website and pay online-it's that easy! www.AnacortesPTSA.com

We welcome all questions, concerns, and comments- please contact us at

anacortesms.ptsa@gmail.com

Like us on Facebook and Instagram!

A LETTER FROM THE PTSA PRESIDENT

November is upon us and it is a time when I reflect on the things that I am thankful for. Of course I am enormously thankful for my family and friends, but as this is about PTSA, I want to thank all those that make our PTSA a success.

First off, our Fall Fundraiser was a huge success! We were able to raise over \$23,000 for our school through all of the efforts of our students, their parents, and our volunteers. We are thrilled with the results! We are reviewing our budget, special projects, and savings to identify where these funds will be distributed. Thank you to the students and parents who sold items or secured donations. The fundraiser was a success because of you! I want to extend a very sincere thank you to Romany Kerr for her diligent efforts in organizing the fundraiser.

The Graveyard Glowout was so much fun! We had around 500 students, and 20+ Volunteers attend. Thank you, Mr. Crane and the entire Leadership team - you hit this one out of the park! Mr. Dunham's Escape Room class set up 3 Escape Rooms, and the students loved them. (There's talk of 4 Escape Rooms at the next Bash!) Stacy Doyle loaned out her spooky fall decorations and helped transform the serene Library into a scream and giggle filled Haunted Library.

If your student was one of the few that didn't attend, or if they don't tell you things like



teenagers tend to, we also had a giant inflatable obstacle course in half of the gym, open gym in other half, photo booth, concessions, and of course a dance. There was something for everyone. Thank you to all the students, staff, and

volunteers for making it a great night for the kids!

The AMS students have so many opportunities to engage in after school activities that interest them. We have Athletics, Yearbook Club, Robotics and more. Thank you to all the staff, administration, and parent volunteers that donate your time and efforts to give our students a place to engage socially, grow, and express themselves.

To those parent volunteers who assist us with our various activities - Thank You! I hear apologies from parents wishing they could volunteer more, but schedules haven't allowed them to. If you are one of those parents, please don't apologize! I want to thank you for being willing to help and I never want a parent to feel guilty for not being able to chaperone or volunteer. We are all doing the best we can. Maybe just as important as volunteering, would be the simple act of thanking someone. What are you thankful for?

-Jeanine Dickison

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

Marly Martinez	7th	Chambers	Fernando Sanchez	6th	Dylan
Zachary Weaver	7th	Chambers	Hayden Stevens	8th	Dunham
Silvia Ellis	6th	Guzik	Kaleb Lamphiear	8th	Crane
Christina Markovich	6th	Guzik	Hannah Rustad	8th	Crane
Grace Johnston	6th	Dylan	Erin Kennedy	8th	Crane
Finnegan McFarland	6th	Dylan	Tyler Baumann	8th	Dunham

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
Rowan Tull-September
Ava Hightower-October



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

Soroptimist
Student of the Month
Emma Foley-September
Hannah Pierce-October



Take Hawk Pride in Community Service

Hello Hawks,

I want to talk about the importance of Community Service and how you can affect people's lives by giving back to your community. Taking part and volunteering in your community teaches compassion, understanding, pride, satisfaction, and accomplishment. Not only is Community Service fun and rewarding, but it also looks great on a resume or college application. Through Community Service you will make a difference in your life as well as the lives within your community. You may find that your Community Service can be for something more than just school credit. Community Service can lead to a lifelong passion for serving the community that you live in. If you have questions or need assistance in finding groups to be a part of contact your school counselor or myself.



Thank you all for all you do, Go, Hawks!

Ofc. Travis Dotzauer

School Resource Officer



AMS NOW ACCEPTING CREDIT CARDS!

The AMS front office is now accepting credit and debit cards! Stop in at the front office to pay for fees, such as sports registration! Questions? Contact Vicki at vevans@asd103.org

Counselor's Corner

6th Graders are settling in!

The Counseling Department surveyed the 6th grade students to find out how they are doing with the middle school transition, including concerns they have so far, and interest level with career exploration.

Of the 161 students that completed the survey, here are results from two categories:

#1- I am having a hard time with the transition to middle school

- Strongly agree - 0 students
- Agree - 8 students
- Not sure - 29 students
- Disagree - 69 students
- Strongly disagree - 52 students

Shawn Flynn (A-K)

Rena Newall (L-Z)

Monique Starkovich - Registrar Secretary

Heather Malone - School Psychologist

Kara Fox - Counseling Intern

#2- I am interested in learning about jobs and/or planning for after high school

- Strongly agree - 39 students
- Agree - 53 students
- Not sure - 55 students
- Disagree - 11 students
- Strongly disagree - 3 students

We will continue to get to know our students and provide support needed to have a positive middle school experience. Small groups will focus on students struggling with the transition, organization, study skills, etc...

Grade level lessons will introduce 6th graders to our College and Career planning program - Xello. We are looking forward to a great year!

FOR OUR NAVY FAMILIES: A SCHOOL-BASED DEPLOYMENT SUPPORT GROUP

The topics covered over the 8 weeks include:

1. Introductions
2. Military families
3. Being a Military Kid
4. Emotional Reactions to Deployment
5. Managing Difficult Feelings

6. Coping Skills
7. Staying in contact with Deployed Parent
8. Reunification with Deployed Parent

For more information, contact NAS Whidbey Island School Liaison Officer at 257-6863 or email at whidbey.slo@navylifepnw.com

NEWS FROM CAREER & COLLEGE OUTREACH

Dear Families,
Simply trying to imagine how we will pay for college can be daunting, whether it's a trade school, 2 year or 4 year college or university. For many of us, the world of financial aid is unknown or confusing until we are forced to deal with it during our student's senior year.

But there are literally millions of dollars in aid out there!

On December 17 the Anacortes College and Career Outreach topic will be **Financial Aid 101: The Basics**. We'll share information ranging from financial planning when your student is younger, to clarifying the different kinds of aid available (grants, loans, scholarships) and we'll show you how to predict both how much aid your student may be awarded, and what your actual costs may be. There are also strategies which may optimize how much aid your

student is eligible to receive that we'll share with you.

Financial Aid 101: The Basics is open to all families of all grades.

Look for more information about time and place early in December.

Questions? Email Shay at

AnacortesCollegeOutreach@ASD103.org.
Don't forget to like us on Facebook at Anacortes College Outreach.

Note: There is no November meeting of College/Career Outreach

I hope to see you on December 17, wishing everyone a good Thanksgiving.



Shay Schual-Berke



HONORING OUR VETERANS

All parents, veterans, and military personnel are invited to AMS to join us on Friday, November 9th from 1:00 to 2:00 pm for our Veteran's Day Assembly. **Please RSVP by Thursday, November 8th** so that we have enough seating for everyone!

FUNDRAISER ORDER UPDATE!

All orders will be ready for pickup at AMS on **Wednesday, November 14th**. Please make arrangements for your student to take home their orders on the 14th, after school. **ALL orders must go home on Wednesday, the 14th**. Prizes will be distributed along with the orders! Most online orders will be shipped to the customer directly, unless they chose to have it shipped to AMS. We are looking for volunteers to help organize and/or help disperse orders! Please email us at anacortesms.ptsas@gmail.com. We'd love your help!



Also, the BIG event prize of playing at Arena Sports in Mill Creek is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 5th**. If your student sold 14+ items, they are eligible to participate in this fun event! More information will be sent out in the coming weeks-please be on the lookout for an email regarding times, a waiver form, as well as volunteering to help chaperone! You won't want to miss this one!

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER IN NOVEMBER:

- November 12th- NO SCHOOL in observance of Veteran's Day
- November 14th- Fundraiser order pick up after school
- November 19th-Early Release
- November 20th-Early Release/AMS Afternoon and Evening Conferences
- November 21st-Early Release for Thanksgiving Break
- November 22nd/23rd-Thanksgiving Break



Newsletter for the Anacortes Middle School and the AMS PTSA 8.2.60

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Mark Perkins - **Ass't Principal**

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Heather Monkman-Vice-President
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Heather Monkman