

## A LETTER FROM MR. HARRINGTON

**Hello AMS Parents and Students!**

We are feeling the excitement of our elementary staff and K-3 students getting set to return to school this week. Along with that, I am feeling even more excited as I am planning with our AMS staff for the return of our students in December! I know it feels like an eternity since our AMS family has been in the building but it is right around the corner. We are working on all the logistics of getting staff and students back safely into our building, and I will continue to give updates on how our progress is going. **As it stands, students will be back in two Cohorts; Cohort A on Monday/Tuesday and Cohort B on Thursday/Friday.** There is still a lot of planning happening to have our staff ready for this launch and I appreciate all of your patience and support.

Below are updates for the month of November:

- **Veterans Day-** No School November 11 in honor of our Veterans.
- **Conferences-** We will be having half days the week of November 23-25. AMS conferences will be held on November 24 in the afternoon from 12:30-3:00 and then again in the evening from 4:30-7:30. We are working on the logistics of this and will be sending our updated information soon.
- **Thanksgiving Break-** November 26 and 27.

Our ASB (Associated Student Body) elections will be taking place very soon. If you have a 7th or 8th grader who is interested in running for a position, please be on the lookout for an announcement and email home with more information.

**Clubs and Activities-** We are offering a few clubs via Zoom. Please be on the lookout for announcements and emails with more information. We will be offering Yearbook and Drama to begin with and adding an Art club soon. More details to come!

**Attendance-** Attendance is crucial and required for all scheduled Zoom meetings! Parents, please get your students to log into their zoom meetings!

Accumulated absences will trigger truancy calls. Students need to be in their scheduled classes and engaged in their learning. We have to follow OSPI guidelines, so if unexcused absences are beginning to reach the 5-7 day threshold, we will be contacting each parent and student about the next steps in our attendance policies. Remember, if you are having difficulty with technology, have a doctor's appointment, or will be out of town, please communicate with our attendance secretary.

**HAWKS NEST-** We have created a time in our day to make some strong connections with our students through HAWKS NEST. I want to make sure that students and families know this time is not optional. We are required to take attendance each day, and our Wednesday's HAWKS NEST is the only time to take attendance on Wednesday! Please make sure your students are logging into their Zoom meetings on that day. We will be covering a number of items in our HAWKS NEST each Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Here are just a few of them:

- **RULER**
- **I-READY Assessments (Math and Reading)**
- **Academics and Organizational Support**
- **Digital Citizenship**
- **Social Hour**

**RULER Grade Level Charter-** Our 6th graders just finished the initial brainstorming of their grade-level charters. I will be working with some of our student leaders to create the rest of the grade level charter and then share with our students and families. We will also share our 7th and 8th grade Charters at that time.

Thank you all for your patience as we continue to work through this remote environment. Again, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your teacher or myself. Go Hawks!!

**Patrick Harrington- AMS Principal**

## PTSA NEWS

**Let's be honest:** this year is hard! It's not how we want it to be, and although we can't be together, we can find ways to stay connected. Anacortes Middle School PTSA is focusing on supporting students, families and our community, whether school learning is remote or in person.

**Here is a look at what traditionally the Anacortes MS PTSA has organized and/or been involved in:**

- Welcome Back Celebrations
- Spiritwear (more info coming soon!)
- School Dances
- Teacher Appreciation
- The Anacortes MS Newsletter
- Community Outreach
- Enrichment Programs
- Moving-Up Traditions



While the future of many of the beloved PTSA-sponsored programs and events is uncertain, those that can be moved to a virtual format will, and we will be looking at 'reinventing' those that can't. Your membership actively supports the PTSA's goals and objectives, and gives you a "Voice & Vote" in decisions affecting our middle school students.

**Please JOIN! Your membership matters now more than ever!**

**Membership is \$15/person or \$45/family.**

**To get signed up today, visit: <https://www.anacortesptsa.com/>**

**Additionally, SAVE THE DATE for this year's Anacortes Middle School PTSA's general membership meetings:**

- **November 16th @ 6:30 PM-- Zoom link for this meeting is [here](#)**
- February 4th
- April 1st
- May/June
- **Note- Dates are subject to change and we will notify 10 days in advance**

We look forward to working with you this year and supporting our students!

Sincerely,

**The Anacortes Middle School Executive Committee**

## OCTOBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

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

## OCTOBER HAWK PRIDE AWARD

These students were nominated by AMS staff for displaying some type of good citizenship or behavior

★ Elijah Eckert, Kirby

- ★ Colton Hong, Kirby
- ★ Danica Matuska, Cooper
- ★ Ryland Beaner, Bickley
- ★ Lola Potter, Bickley
- ★ Carter Bowman, Chambers
- ★ Megan Moore, Chambers
- ★ Guadalupe Bonilla, Chambers
- ★ Dylan Rowell, Chambers
- ★ Kiley Petrin, Graham
- ★ Kellen Goldstein, Graham
- ★ Neraeh Baker, Huggins
- ★ Kira Wade, Huggins
- ★ Jackson Eckhart, Huggins
- ★ Jamel Doherty, Huggins

## **ANACORTES SERVICE CLUBS HONOR AMS STUDENTS**

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



**Soroptimist  
Student of the Month  
Emily Santos**

## Counselor's Corner

Shawn Flynn (A-K)

Rena Newall (L-Z)

Monique Starkovich, Registrar Secretary

Dr. Westbeld, School Psychologist

### Returning to Campus

As you know, students will be on campus at the beginning of December. This can be exciting and potentially stressful for some students and families. As we all gear up for what this will look like and feel like, here are some things to consider while helping your child return to campus:

- Encourage your child to express their feelings – positive and negative. Are they excited about seeing friends? Worried about getting sick? Some of both?
- Model and encourage positive behavior. It makes sense that you and your children may be feeling fearful, discouraged or restless. It's important for you to model positive behaviors to improve mood and coping skills – including taking care of yourself.

### Some behaviors to model for your kids:

- Get enough sleep
- Eat well balanced, nutritious food
- Perform regular exercise and physical activity
- Reach out to friends and family to maintain connections
- Share your own strategies for overcoming worry with your children
- Keep a routine

**AMS will have 2 cohorts; Cohort A will be on campus Monday and Tuesday. Cohort B will be on campus Thursday and Friday.** Please talk with your child about how this will look for your family and if you have any questions or concerns, please email us at [sflynn@asd103.org](mailto:sflynn@asd103.org) or [rnewall@asd103.org](mailto:rnewall@asd103.org)

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER IN NOVEMBER:

- **November 4th-** Photo retakes in the commons from 6-8pm. Please park in the district parking lot behind the school.
- **The first week of November-** the first zoom meeting for Drama Club and Yearbook Club. Please email Mrs. Rudge for the Zoom links.
- **November 11th-** No school in honor of Veteran's Day
- **Nov 23rd and 24th-** Half days due to conferences. Classes will be done by 11:15.



# THE H WK

NEWSLETTER FOR THE  
ANACORTES MIDDLE SCHOOL  
& THE AMS PTSA 8.2.60

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## Newsletter for the Anacortes Middle School and the AMS PTSA 8.2.60

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**Principal**  
Patrick Harrington

### **PTSA BOARD MEMBERS**

Leslie Tysseling - President  
Ashley Depner - Vice President  
Sky Osmond - Secretary  
Camille Flinders - Treasurer

### **Newsletter Editors**

Romany Kerr &  
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