



Parent Newsletter

Volume 10 Issue 3

Andover Middle School

November 11

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK
MR. BRETT WHITE

Inside this issue

Mr. Jones	2 & 4	I was very pleased with this fall's conferences. Lines were relatively short, and the feedback was generally very positive. Thanks to all of you who took time out of your busy lives to visit with your child's teachers. This reflects your commitment to education and the value that you place on the dialogues that occur with educators.
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Nurse's Notes	6	In the end, much of life boils down to good decision-making. What follows are some tips for parents, specifically parents of teens, as we coach our kids through this process.

Jim Fay, the renowned child-rearing expert, says that kids should be allowed to fail when the price tag is affordable. It is difficult, but very necessary, to allow kids to sometimes just fall flat on their faces, assuming that their safety and long-term well-being are not in jeopardy. There is an old saying that "Knowledge can be communicated, but wisdom can't." At times experience must be the teacher.

A pamphlet from The Master Teacher organization entitled *Helping Children Be Responsible* stresses the importance of not allowing children to shift their responsibilities to us. If we allow this to happen, we take ownership of their problems. The message they learn is that someone else will always be there to solve my problems. The pamphlet suggests that, until children become concerned, their poor decision-making will not improve.

A handout from a company called The Positive Line says that we need to first offer support and understanding when kids make mistakes. Then the discipline is imposed in a firm, consistent manner. It also stresses the importance of praising kids for their good decisions.

Barbara Coloroso, author of *Kids are Worth It!* says that parents need to be supportive of their kids by offering them the six critical life messages: (1) I believe in you; (2) I trust in you; (3) I know you can handle this; (4) You are listened to; (5) You are cared for; (6) You are very important to me. Coloroso goes on to say that kids are "not ours to possess, control, manipulate, or even to make mind. They are gifts to us. Now granted some came in very unique packaging, but they are still gifts to us."

As the holiday season approaches, our schedules and lives get even busier than usual. As I read what Barbara Coloroso wrote again, I realize that long after the toys, PS3, new clothes, and all the other material gifts that we will spend hours searching for have been abandoned, the investment of time in our children's lives, as they achieve great successes and experience inevitable failures, will remain.

Mr. Jones, Assistant Principal and Athletic Director

The fall season has come to a very successful end. Here are the highlights:

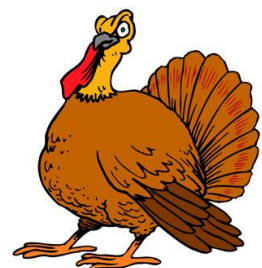
On Tuesday, October 4th, the Girls' Tennis Team won the Championship at the Pioneer League Division II tournament, finishing 21 points ahead of ACMS. Medalists for AMS were: #1 Singles - 4th place (Madi Hearne), #2 Singles - 1st place (Caitlyn White), #3 Singles - 2nd place (Masha Frish), #4 Singles - 3rd place (Lexi Lesperance), #1 Doubles - 1st place (Robyn Fritze/Savannah Elliott), #2 Doubles - 2nd place (Addy Maples/Maddy Bishop), #3 Doubles - 2nd place (Pilar Karlin/Hadley Kaff) and #4 Doubles - 1st place (Emily Rishel/Reilly Peare).

On Tuesday October 11th, the Cross Country team finished off a very successful season. 7th Grade Girls team finished third with individual medalists: Sarah Larson 4th, Mia Hays 7th. Other runners were Emily Borchert 16th, Lauren Marion 41st, Jordan Hotaling 42nd and Madison Hill 48th. 7th Grade Boys were team champions scoring 11 points with individual medalists: Logan Wampler Individual Champion, Josh Loflin 3rd and Ritchie Parker 7th. Other runners were Jake Noonan 14th, Carter Guyer 15th, Brett Kabler 16th, Evan Welch 21st, Dawson Wagner 23rd, Wesley Ng 27th, Ethan Brenner 30th, Johan Bell 31st, Luke Prohaska 32nd, Blake Hachen 36th, Issac Poe 37th, Cale Solomon 40th, Connor Guthridge 43rd, Jaxon Rush 45th, Zac Quam 48th, Payton Stone 50th, Parker Esworthy 52nd, John Randall 53rd, Ethan Timmesch 61st and Evan Just 62nd. 8th Grade Girls had medalist Lili Jones 8th. 8th Grade Boys finished 4th. Individual medalist was Matt Steinert 5th. Other runners were Jacob Jackson 13th, Jamial Alkhoury 15th, Sam Beabout 19th, Austin Knight 24th, Christian Whitfill 31st, Cole Richardson 32nd, Bryce Baty 43rd.

Football wrapped up an outstanding season on Thursday, October 13th. The 7th Grade won the Division 2 championship with a record of 5-1 in division play and 6-1 overall, while the 8th Grade finished at 4-2 in division play and 4-3 overall. .

On Saturday, October 15th, Volleyball wrapped up a very successful season. The 7th Grade "A" team finished division play at 4-2. At the Division II league tournament held at Valley Center MS, the team lost in the semis. The 7th Grade "B" team finished division play at 4-2. The 8th Grade "A" team finished division play at 3-3. At the Division II league tournament held at Valley Center MS, the 8th grade came out on top winning the championship as a 4th seed. The 8th Grade "B" team finished division play at 2-4.

Just want to say thanks and great job to the Fall AMS Cheerleaders and Coach Moore for all of their hard work at both practice and at Thursday night games. Your spirit was a tremendous asset to the football players, fans and parents. I look forward to seeing you on the hardwood this winter.



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Veterans' Day and Geography Bee

Andover Middle School is hosting their annual Veterans' Day event on the first ever 11-11-11! We have a wonderful day of events planned and are encouraging our students to wear their 11-11-11 shirts for our Veteran's Day Program, which will feature a live video conference with World War II Veteran, former Kansas U.S. Senator and presidential candidate, Bob Dole! We are quite fortunate to be able to share the day with such a prominent World War II Veteran! We would like to invite all veterans to join us throughout the day. Please be sure to RSVP to the office or email Shannon Woods, woodss@usd385.org.

We are also hosting our third annual Geography Bee and Chili Feed, sponsored by AMSPO, on Monday, November 28 from 5-7 p.m. Dinner will be served from 5:00 to 5:45, with the bee following. Join us for a chili dinner and watch our amazing students compete to be the AMS Geography Champion! We are asking for a donation at the door with all of our funds supporting the Central Plains Honor Flight and the Wounded Warrior Project. Finally, there will be a silent auction for an array of prizes - so join us for a night of chili, geography, and let's help raise some funds to help our veterans!

If you are interested in donating a prize for the silent auction, please contact Shannon Woods, woodss@usd385.org or 218-4610.

From the Library...

Thank you to everyone who purchased books at the Scholastic Book Fair. We were able to add hundreds of dollars worth of new books to our collection with our proceeds. The teachers who received books and gift certificates were thrilled. We were overwhelmed on conference nights with your support. Thank you again for helping us make AMS library even better.



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Now on to the winter seasons:

Scholar's Bowl had its tryouts and the season began October 24th at HWMS. The Pioneer League Division II meet will be held at Eisenhower on Thursday November 17th beginning at 3:30pm.

The winter sports season has begun. Basketball tryouts were held November 2nd thru 4th. Practice will begin on Monday November 7th. The first basketball game is November 29th against Maize MS. Wrestling will begin working out in December with regular practice beginning on January 3rd. Information will be coming out from Coach Oyler in the near future.

Remember, students cannot participate in any athletic sport without a current KSHSAA physical and KSHSAA Concussion form on file with the athletic department. Please turn all physical/concussion forms in to Mr. Jones in the office. Those students who have not paid their Pay to Participate fee need to do so by the first game.

Note to Parents:

Eligibility for the second nine weeks has already been determined. Remember that we establish our athletic/activity eligibility by the nine weeks. We feel that this method allows our kids to get back to activities quicker than doing it by semester. This helps some and hurts others, but not being eligible is something that kids and parents should be conscious of if they are properly monitoring their progress each week. Students must pass five subjects of unit weight during the previous nine weeks to be considered eligible. We have eight blocks, however, language arts is a two-hour block and is worth one credit. So, our students have the possibility of earning seven credits. When two classes, like physical education and health, share the same hour on alternating days they are averaged together for one credit. Ineligibility is seldom a surprise to those involved. If you have any questions concerning physicals or eligibility please e-mail or call me at the school.

Go Trojans!



OFFICE NEWS

Wednesday, 11/9

Friday, 11/11

Week of 11/14-18

Tuesday, 11/15 @ noon

Monday, 11/21 @ 7:00 p.m.

Wed., 11/23—Fri., 11/25

Monday, 11/28 @ 5:00 p.m.

AHS Fall Blood Drive

Veterans' Day Celebration

Pioneer League Food Drive

**Andover Parent Legislative
Council Meeting at D.O.**

**AMS Band Concert
@ AHS auditorium**

Thanksgiving break

Chili Feed/Geography Bee

Vacation Policy

As we begin the holiday season, please keep the following in mind regarding vacations:

If your student is going to be gone two days or more, the office has a form that must be filled out ahead of time and approved by Mr. White. (The form can also be found at the AMS website.) As soon as the form is approved, the office will issue a homework sheet to your child to take to his teachers for homework collection.

Nurse's Newsletter Items

We want to thank all of the wonderful AMS families that have sent supplies to the health office this year. We appreciate your kindness and generosity.

I have sent letters to the parents of all students that need immunizations. Students in 7th grade at this time need a Tdap (tetanus) and 2 Varicella (chicken pox). If your student received immunizations over the summer, please provide written documentation from the doctor with these dates. If your student has had the chicken pox disease, I need written documentation from your doctor of this. This is a new regulation from the health department.

We have started hearing and vision screenings. All 6th and 8th graders will have their vision checked, and all 7th graders will have their hearing checked. If you do not receive written notice of a problem, your student passed.

Remember, no medications may be given without a signed medication sheet from the parent and doctor. Please do not send medication to school with your student to take without this document. If you think your student will need over-the-counter medication this year, please have them stop in the nurse's office to pick up a form. You may have the doctor's office fax it back to us with a signature to 733-4165.

Please remember to keep your student home until 24 hours after starting an antibiotic for an infection. They also must stay home until they are fever, vomiting, and/or diarrhea-free for 24 hours without medication.

Remember that the best defense against getting sick is frequent handwashing for at least 20 seconds. It is important to do all we can to stay healthy. This includes eating a proper diet with plenty of water and getting enough sleep, both of which are a challenge for middle-school students.

Please have your student eat breakfast every day to help avoid mid-morning headaches and stomachaches. Also, please do not send energy drinks to school with your student. We have started allowing healthy snacks during class this year, which I think will help.

I do not give excuses for sports practices or PE. If your student has an issue (and doesn't have a fever or vomiting etc.), I will have them call you and you can decide if they should go to practice or not. It is then the student's responsibility to contact their coach. You may write a PE excuse for 1 day. If your student needs to miss more than 1 PE class, a doctor's note is required. They will need to make up the missed class before or after school.

Call the office if you have any contact information changes. Also check to make sure we have current emergency notification information in case we are unable to reach parents.

Have a fabulous fall and please call the health office if you have any questions or concerns.

Your AMS Nurses,

Tami Cairns RN

Barb Trekell RN

Lisa Henneke Health Clerk

