



# A M S NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 7

MARCH 1, 2010

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Calendar
- Classroom Notes
- PTO News
- Counselor's New

## PHONE NUMBERS

MAIN OFFICE  
789-1400 EXT. 448

GUIDANCE  
789-1400 EXT. 455

NURSE  
789-1400 EXT. 452

ADJUSTMENT COUNSELOR  
789-1400 EXT. 491



## FROM THE MAIN OFFICE

### March Calendar

Mar. 8—7:00 p.m. Chorus Concert AT the JHS Auditorium

Mar. 9—Progress Reports issued

Mar. 10—Afternoon Conferences 1—3 p.m. (1/2 day for students)

Mar. 16—Evening Conferences 6:30—8:30 p.m.

Mar. 23rd-24th—MCAS ELA Session I & II (Gr. 5)

Mar. 30—MCAS ELA (Gr. 6)

Mar. 31th—Professional Development (1/2 day for students)

### SNEAK PEAK AT APRIL

Apr. 1—MCAS ELA (Gr. 6)

Apr. 2—Good Friday No School

Apr. 12-16—Book Fair

Apr. 19-23—Spring Vacation

### FROM OUR LIBRARIAN

We're celebrating reading! The Middle School's AR program has been revised. Mrs. Mokrzycki is happy to announce the new Accelerated Reader online program! With this new program, students can now take tests for approximately 108,000 books on all reading levels. Our old



program only provided tests for 2,684 book titles. We're working with the public library to increase the potential for our students to find books to read, and our library's book collection is now being reviewed to identify AR titles. Parents and students can find which books have tests by looking at the company's book finder site at <http://www.arbookfind.com/advanced.aspx>. Students are receiving training on the new sites during their regularly scheduled library classes.



## FROM THE COUNSELING OFFICE

### SCHOOL COUNSELING SURVEY

Please visit the Agawam Public Schools website at [www.agawampublicschools.org](http://www.agawampublicschools.org) to complete the school counseling survey. To locate the survey, go to the menu on the left side of the page, scroll over Middle School and click on School Counseling Services. At the bottom of the page you will find a link for a counseling survey. We appreciate your input in order to better serve parents and guardians in the community.

### UPCOMING COFFEE HOUR

The Middle School counseling department will be host-

ing our next coffee hour on March 11th from 8:30-9:15a.m. Helping your child be prepared for MCAS day.

### MCAS DATES

Welcome to March, the start of MCAS testing. We will be administering the English Language Arts test for 5th grade students on March 23rd and 24th and 6th grade on March 30th and April 1st. This year students will be required to complete two sessions as opposed to three in years past.

### General Test Taking Tip

Get a good night's sleep. Have a good breakfast. Dress comfortably. Read and follow the directions carefully.

Pace yourself, know how many questions are on the test.

Be prepared to work for the entire test session.

Skip difficult problems, but make sure you go back when finished the items.

Mark your answers carefully. If you aren't sure, guess wisely - eliminate as many answers as possible. Check your accuracy.

### Ask your Child

During the month of March the counselors will be going into the classroom to discuss test taking strategies and relaxation tips to prepare students for the MCAS tests.



# CLASSROOM NEWS

The students must decide on what will be of interest to other students, and then make their own "goods" to trade.

Students have prepared either a book, poster board or power-point depiction of a nation of Europe.

## FROM ROOM 205

As a part of our unit on Explorers for Social Studies, the students in Room 205 took part in our annual TRADE FAIR. The students must decide what will be of interest to other students, and then make their own "goods" to trade. They had some great ideas and everyone was very enthusiastic.

It is an opportunity for the students to understand what it was like for the explorers when they were trading with the Native Americans.

## FROM ROOM 312

Mrs. Augusti's three social studies classes are presenting their European projects to their classmates this week. Students have prepared either a book, poster board or power-point depiction of a nation of Europe. They describe the government, economy, culture, artists and composers, as well as answer questions from their classmates about their nation. The students are enjoying these presentations!



## FROM ROOMS 301, 302, 303, 315, and 316

We are beginning their author research project. Students will be completing parts of the project in Library and Computer classes. To begin research, teachers will be at the Agawam Public Library on scheduled nights to assist students. The librarians at the Agawam Public Library are also very helpful with this project.

## FROM ROOM 107

The students and teachers of room 107 are very excited to be working on a special activity in English class. Each student is involved in creating their own scrapbook of Middle School memories! We are journaling our special events and unique projects. The students are doing a wonderful job with this assignment. We would be very grateful, if anyone would help donate scrapbook materials for our year long project.

## FROM ROOM 105

The students in room 105 have been very busy studying the Revolutionary War and colonial life. We have had fun taking a few breaks from the war and doing some activities of everyday life in the 1700's. So far we have made butter. Yum! We have also made puppets, small sock dolls that children made in colonial days. We actually had a puppet nursery in our room for several weeks! We are looking forward to more activities as we continue to learn about the Revolutionary War and the lives of people who lived in colonial times.

# PTO NEWS

The PTO held a fun and successful popcorn fundraiser on February 12. Popcorn was popping non-stop and close to 700 bags were sold! Students representatives helped to sell the popcorn and count the money, learning lessons in business along the way. Total sales for the day were \$428.17. Popcorn day will be held again March 17.

Derose at 575-2506 and delivery will be prior to Mother's Day. With just one item ordered, you will receive a free insulated tote bag.

## NEXT PTO MEETING

Our next PTO Meeting is Thursday, 3/11 at 7 :00 p.m. in the cafeteria. Please come to this important meeting if you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a PTO Officer next year. All current officers will be "graduating" at the end of this academic year!

## SPRING BULBS FUNDRAISER

We will be holding a spring bulb fundraiser from March 5-19. It is a good time to order bulbs and start thinking about flowers and warm weather. Please return all orders by Friday, March 19th. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa



*President*  
**Sharon Roulier**

*Vice President*  
**Denise Krescock**

*Treasurer*  
**Lisa Derose**

