

Principal's Report

Amherst School District

School: Amherst Middle School

April 19, 2018

Elementary
& Middle
School
Excellence

- **Parent Partnership Team:** Amherst Middle, Clark-Wilkins, Mont Vernon Village, and Souhegan High schools joined forces to present Lynn Lyons on Monday, April 16th at the SHS Theater to an audience of over 300! Lynn Lyons is a licensed clinical social worker and psychotherapist from Concord, NH, who specializes in the treatment of anxiety disorders in children and adults. She presented on the topic of *"Managing Anxiety at School and Home: Strategies to Interrupt the Worry Cycle."* When children and their parents are in the grips of anxiety and worry, it feels overwhelming and mysterious. Anxiety is a very persistent master; when it moves into families, it takes over daily routines, schoolwork, bedtime and recreation. To make matters worse, the things that we do intuitively as adults to help and console our anxious children actually make the anxiety stronger. This workshop discussed concrete strategies parents and educators can use with children and teens for families to handle current anxiety and prevent the development of anxiety and depression later in life. Lynn has written several books and DVDs, which were available for sale at the event. Check out Lynn's website at: <http://www.lynnlyonsnh.com/>
- **Susan Stitt Global Science Initiative EAGLE Tank:** Grade 7 students will present their Global Science Initiative projects to a "tank" of judges on Thursday, April 19th. Judges include community members, administration, and Souhegan High School students as they pitch their project in hopes of acceptance.
- **NH Statewide Assessment System (NHSAS)** Eighth grade science students will participate in the NHSAS this spring. NHSAS (formally Smarter Balanced) assesses students' progress and learning against the New Hampshire Academic Standards.
- **Project Safeguard:** Our annual Project Safeguard program for 7th graders and their parents will be held on Friday, May 18th. Prior to this block of time, we need volunteers to put together the registration packets for students and parents. **Friday, May 18, 7:30 – 8:30:** Volunteers to help hand out registration packets in the lobby to parents as they arrive. (No 7th grade parents) **Friday, May 18th, 11:45 – 12:45:** Volunteers to help serve lunch to 7th graders and their parents in the cafeteria. (No 7th grade parents)

- **Transitions:** I attended a parent transition meeting at the Mont Vernon Village School on April 10. This annual meeting allows MVVS sixth grade parents meet me and discuss program, scheduling, and expectations for the children next year when they enter grade 7 here at the Middle School. I really enjoy this opportunity to meet parents and answer any questions about the all the wonderful things that their children will be exposed to in September.
- **Staffing:** The administration has been busy with interviews for many positions to fill for July 1. It is our hope to have nominations at this meeting for a grade 5 teacher, two grade 6 teachers, a grade 8 teacher, and possibly two administrator positions. We are currently looking for a Special Education Secretary.

Diligent
Fiscal
Oversight

- **FY18 Budget:** The Administrative team is continuing to review and approve requisitions presented with a watchful eye as the year winds down and the budget tight..
- **FY19 Budget:** As we begin to discuss the FY19 budget, Dr. Bernasconi, Dr. Femia-Hou, and I are working to ensure we effectively create a one to meet the increasing needs of the Middle School, and provide the two *new* administrators with a clear vision and direction of our future goals.
- **Current enrolment at AMS:**

| Grade | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. | Feb. | March | Apr. | May | June |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----|------|
| 5 | 134 | 135 | 136 | 137 | 137 | 136 | 138 | 139 | 139 | | |
| 6 | 141 | 141 | 142 | 141 | 141 | 140 | 140 | 139 | 139 | | |
| 7 | 173 (28 MV) | 174 (28 MV) | 174 (28 MV) | 174 (28 MV) | 176 (28 MV) | 176 (28 MV) | 175 (28 MV) | 175 (28 MV) | 176 (28 MV) | | |
| 8 | 184 (31 MV) | 185 (31 MV) | 185 (32 MV) | 186 (32 MV) | 187 (32 MV) | 187 (32 MV) | 186 (32 MV) | 186 (32 MV) | 186 (32 MV) | | |
| Total | 632 | 635 | 637 | 638 | 639 | 639 | 639 | 639 | 640 | | |

Inspirational
& Effective
Teaching

- **Community Action for Safe Teens (CAST)** through my position on the steering committee and facilitation of the CAST meetings with school and community volunteers from Wilton, Milford, Hollis, Brookline and Amherst we have established some valuable programs for children of families with substance use disorder. In addition, on Friday, April 13, fifteen AMS students attended a Leadership Summit at the Boys and Girls Club of Souhegan Valley. Just the numbers from AMS exceeded the entire group trained in the previous summit!
- **April Late Start:** Christine Landwerhle and Dr. Bethany Bernasconi led the late start this month. The new Empower software and Mastery Learning presentation was very helpful to the professional staff as they train on this eventual replacement for the i39 platform currently used. The remainder of the time allowed staff to choose their own pathway based on where they currently are with Empower. The support staff trained with Lauren DiGennaro under Dr. Lisa Femia-Hou's oversight as part of their professional development designed specifically for their needs.

Innovative
Technology
Integration

- **Amherst Makerspace Tool Drive:** Amherst Makerspace is holding a tool drive and looking for unwanted tools and assorted hardware, for our May 5th tool sale at Amherst Middle School. They are looking for small hand tools, power tools, tool boxes, shop tools, automotive tools, woodworking tools, test & measure, fasteners, collections of electronic components, cordless tools, vices, air tools and yard tools. No CHEMICALS. Please email bfreeman@sau39.org to schedule a pickup time or a drop-off location. Donations will be sold and the proceeds will be used to support our program that benefits the students of Amherst Middle School and the community Makerspace.

SAU #39
Strategic
Planning

- **Security and Safety:** AMS continues to review our incident command structure and practice fire drills and lockdowns every month. Led by School Resource Officer Mike Knox, the ICS team has performed well under stress in simulated crisis situations during table top trainings designed to reinforce command structure and instill teamwork in the event an actual crisis of any kind occurs.
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Summary of Upcoming Events

- April 16: Lynn Lyons presentation, 6:30pm at SHS
- April 18: National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) Meeting and Service Session
- April 19: Grade 7 GSI/Eagle Tank
- April 30/May 1: Talent Show Technical Rehearsals
- May 1: Trimester 3 Progress Reports
- May 2: AMS Open House for MV Students and Parents, 6pm
- May 4: Grade 6 Field Trip (Nedelman/Provencher)
- May 4: AMS Talent Show, 6:30pm
- May 7: Grade 4 to 5 Transition Evening, 6pm
- May 8: Theater Club Banquet
- May 11: Grade 6 Field Trip (Estabrook/Cooley)
- May 11: School dance, 7pm, grades 6, 7 & 8
- May 15: Grade 5/6 Band Concert, 6pm
- May 15: Grade 5/6 Chorus Concert 7pm
- May 17: Grade 7/8 Band, Jazz Band Concert, 7pm
- May 18: Grade 6 Field Trip (Robinson/Dustin)
- May 18: Project Safeguard for grade 7 and parents