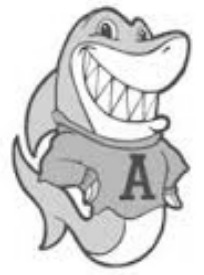


AMHERST NEWSLETTER



News and events for Amherst families. Go sharks!

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE FROM MS. YARBROUGH

Wow! I can't believe we are halfway through the school year. We have a very busy second half of the year!

Morning Drop Off

Our traffic pattern is doing much better. I want to thank all the drivers for working hard getting here and having your child ready to get out of the car in the mornings. We have come a long way from the beginning of the school year. We have had a big drop in tardiness, so everyone is getting to school on time and ready to learn. Thank you to everyone for helping with this.

Update Contact Information

If you have changed phone numbers or moved, please notify the office of your new phone number(s) or address. It is that time of year that we need to have updated contact information for parents. Fifth grade parents: The address we have on file this year will be the address that the middle schools will use when locating your zoned school for middle school visits.

Inclement Weather

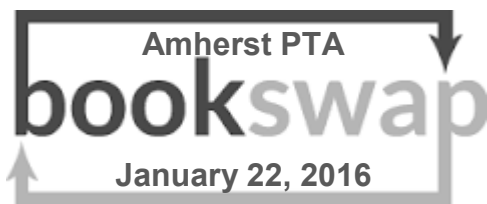
Please make sure your child's teacher knows how your child is going home in case of early dismissal. Teachers need to have up-to-date information to ensure your child's safety.

Report Cards

Report cards will be coming home on Monday, January 11th. Please sign and return them to your child's teacher.

Engagement Night for Families

Family engagement night is coming up on Thursday, February 25th at 5:30 pm. More information to come.



The PTA Book Swap is a great way for your child to find an awesome 'new' book to read and recycle 'old' books! Please bring donated books to school between January 8th-20th. Books must be appropriate for grades K-5 and be in gently used condition (with covers and backs; no rips, tears, or bent edges). If you have more than one book to donate, we will take them! If you have unused gift certificates for McKay's or other book stores, we can use those too! Swapped books will be kept by another student, so please make sure your child does not donate any book that they will want back.

Important Dates

- Jan 18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday -no school
- Jan 22 PTA Book Swap
- Feb 1-12 Peanut Butter Drive for Second Harvest
- Feb 5 End of 4½ Weeks Grading Period
- Feb 15 Presidents' Day -no school for students
- Feb 25 Family Engagement Night
- Feb 29 Spring Portrait and Class Picture Day
- Mar 1 Presidential Primary -no school for students

The Jason Jablonski
Project Heart Cart
Peanut Butter Challenge
For
Second Harvest Food Bank



February 1-12, 2016

"One in six people in East Tennessee lives in poverty and has difficulty meeting basic needs."

Help us show our Amherst students that everyone doing a little bit can make a big impact on others in our community. Send a jar of peanut butter to school for our drive to benefit Second Harvest Food Bank, East Tennessee's largest hunger relief charity.

Thank you!



Stay Connected

Like us on Facebook!

Amherst Elementary School PTA



Visit us on the web

www.knoxschools.org/amherstes

(Look for PTA under "For Families.")

Mark your calendars!



Class pictures and spring school portraits are scheduled for Monday, February 29th.

2015-16 Yearbooks



We need your pictures for the yearbook!

Box Tops Collection

Please continue to collect Box Tops for Education! The class that turns in the most Box Tops will once again help Ms. Morris choose the books she will buy with the money raised for the school library!

PTA Sponsored Contests -- Update



Congratulations to all the students who competed in the Reflections Art Contest at our school! Recognition will be going out to our best entries early this month.

Also, four Amherst students will be receiving recognition for their works from the Knox County Council PTA. KCC PTA is even forwarding one of our Kindergartener's entries to Tennessee State PTA for competition! Good Job, Everyone!

Entries have been received for the Safety Poster and Citizenship Literature Contests. Our judges are reviewing them now, and recognition will be given in late January. Then our best entries will be forwarded to Knox County for their competition. Good luck to all the students who have put forth their hard work for these contests!

Carnival Time!



Our carnival will be held in the spring this year. Mark your calendars for Friday, April 8th, from 5:00 – 8:00 pm, for a fun-filled, family event!

Specifically, we need pictures of the following activities:

- Field trips & classroom activities
- Musical events for all grades (for example, Kindergarteners during the Turkey Trot)
- First day of school (please list student's name and grade)
- McTeacher Night
- Cross country meets
- Family Dance
- Walk-a-thon
- Classroom candid and class group pictures (for example, group pictures from Christmas parties or field trips) and
- Classroom doors that have been decorated.

Any other school-related candid photos are also welcome! For each photo, please include students' names and grades, if known.

Pictures can be uploaded using the *Replay It* app on your smartphone (free download for iPhones or Androids). The app allows you to tag classes and students in each picture. If you don't want to upload via the app, you can visit replayit.com and upload via a desktop or laptop computer. Additionally, you are welcome to email pictures to Yearbook Co-Chair Kelly Testament at ktestament@comcast.net.

If pictures have already been uploaded or emailed, please do not resubmit them. Because we are trying to include as many pictures as possible, send any and all that you have!

Amherst PTA Board Members 2015-16

President -

1st Vice President (Student Contests) -

2nd Vice President (Membership) - Shannon Strahan

Secretary - Valerie Stanley

Treasurer - Amanda McConaha

Room Parent Coordinator - Philip Goodlet

Book Swap Chair - Danielle Voyles

Clinic Chair - Sherri Simmons

Hospitality Co-Chairs - Alishia Kennedy and Melissa Lindsey

Playground Chair - Christine Gilmore

Volunteer Coordinator - Amy Ottinger

Student Contests Chair - Melissa Tingle

Yearbook Co-Chairs - Kelly Testament and Lori Gray

Communications Co-Chairs - Alanna Hunsaker (Digital) and LaToya Myles (Newsletter)

President Emerita - Kim Venable

Principal - Sharon Yarbrough

Assistant Principal - Lorie Collier

EVERY SCHOOL. EVERY STUDENT. PTA
KNOX STRONG