

# AMHERST NEWSLETTER



News and events for Amherst families. Go sharks!

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE FROM MS. YARBROUGH

### Morning Drop Off

Thank you so much for your patience as we work through our morning traffic. Here are a few tips that will help it run smoothly:

- Please have your child ready to exit your vehicle when you drive up.
- Students should exit and enter your vehicle on the passenger's side for safety reasons.
- We begin unloading students by 7:07. The traffic flows nicely until 7:29 then it becomes bogged down.
- Teachers begin taking the students into their classrooms at 7:35 so that students have the time to unload their backpacks and get ready to begin their day. Class begins at 7:45, so we need to make sure your child is in their classroom ready to begin by this time.
- Parents who need to come into the building must enter through the office. Please check in and get a visitor's pass. Remember, teachers are very busy in the mornings so if you need to speak with your child's teacher, make sure you have made an appointment prior to coming into the building.

### Afternoon Pick Up

Thank you for our afternoon dismissal! It is going very well. We are loading 120 cars in less than 15 minutes!

### Flu Mist for Students

Flu Mist will be available for students on Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 – 11:00 am. Permission forms have been sent home with students.



October 20<sup>th</sup> 4:00-7:00 pm

Parents, students, educators, and friends are invited to McDonald's at 4420 Western Avenue for McTeacher's Night on Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> from 4:00—7:00 pm. Please come by, get something to eat, and support Amherst. A portion of the sales will be donated to our school. See you at McDonald's!

## Important Dates

Oct 9	End of First 9 Weeks Grading Period
Oct 12-13	Fall Break –no school
Oct 19	Reflections Contest Deadline
Nov 6	School Portrait Day
Nov 10	General PTA Meeting at 5:00 pm in the Gym
Nov 13	Walk-a-thon
Nov 25-27	Thanksgiving Holiday - no school
Dec 11	Winter Family Dance at 5:00 pm in the Gym
Dec 18	End of Second 9 Weeks Grading Period - Half Day for Students
Dec 21- Jan 4	Winter Break - no school



Thank you to everyone who joined PTA during the membership drive! We have approximately 450 members including 100% of Amherst's full-time certified teachers. Parents can still join PTA at any point during the year by completing the form available on the school website and submitting it along with their dues.

Below are the top classes with the most memberships in each grade!

- Kindergarten - Huemmer
- 1st Grade - Major
- 2nd Grade - Danzey
- 3rd Grade - Huether
- 4th Grade - Roberts
- 5th Grade- Thompson



## Stay Connected

Like us on Facebook!  
Amherst Elementary School PTA



## Visit us on the web

[www.knoxschools.org/amherstes](http://www.knoxschools.org/amherstes)  
(Look for PTA under "For Families.")

## Spirit Wear On Sale Now

Pre-order forms for new spirit wear designs will go home the first week in October. This year, we will offer two designs in several colors of shirt, and in short- and long-sleeve options (\$10 - \$15). We will also offer a third design as a hooded sweatshirt (\$20). Plus we will have baseball caps featuring an embroidered Sharky (\$12). We are working on a special "Amherst Sharknado" t-shirt design, too, so watch out for that!

In the meantime, we are selling out of old spirit wear. Last year's shirts are discounted to \$7 for short-sleeve and \$10 for long-sleeve. There are also some even older designs for \$5 a shirt.

Spirit wear sales and pre-orders must be received by Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. Please send questions and inquiries about spirit wear to [pta.spiritwear.amherst@gmail.com](mailto:pta.spiritwear.amherst@gmail.com).

### Mark your calendars!



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

### Reflections® Contest

The theme of this year's Reflections® Contest is "Let Your Imagination Fly." Use this theme to create an original art work in one of six categories: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Visual Art, Literature, Music Composition, & Photography. Entries will be judged in our school competition, and winners will be recognized in the school yearbook. Entries that place well will be sent to the Knox County PTA-level competition, and then -potentially - to state or even national!

Entry forms for the National PTA Reflections Art Contest are available now. The deadline for submission is October 19<sup>th</sup>. Please email [pta.president.amherst@gmail.com](mailto:pta.president.amherst@gmail.com) with questions.



## Walk-a-thon 2015

This year's Walk-a-thon will take place during school hours on Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. Students will collect donations in support of the walk. Incentives will be awarded for the students who collect the most, and even more prizes will be given away during the event. This is a fun event for our students! Donation collection forms will be sent home the second week of October.



### Fall PTA Clothing Drive

Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>

Donate clothing to help replenish the Knox County Schools Clothing Center. The Center benefits students at every Knox County school.

Gently used boys and girls clothes size 6-14 and small men's clothing are especially needed. (All sizes from about 4T are accepted.) New, packaged socks and underwear (Boys and Girls, sizes 6-14) are needed too. Please send clothing donations to Amherst by Friday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>.



### 2015-16 Yearbooks

Amherst yearbooks are now on sale! All yearbooks will be hard back this year and cost \$28. Complete the order form and return it to your child's teacher with your payment (cash or checks made payable to Jostens) or go to [www.jostensyearbooks.com](http://www.jostensyearbooks.com) to place your order. Online payment options include PayPal, checks, and credit cards. Yearbooks can be personalized with your child's name and up to 4 icons, all icons ordered through October 30<sup>th</sup> will be free!

## Amherst PTA Board Members 2015-16

President -  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President (Student Contests) -  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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  
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**