



March Newsletter



Dear Families,

As spring approaches, we are already beginning our plans and preparations for the end of this school year and for the beginning of next school year. Our 7th grade students will learn about our transition program, WEB – Where Everybody Belongs - at an assembly this week. This year's 8th grade WEB Leaders have done an amazing job working with our 5th graders and helping them to have a smooth transition to the middle school. We are excited to see our next group develop as leaders and help our incoming 5th grade students adjust to life in the middle school.

On Tuesday, March 10th we will hold the Ahern Program of Studies evening. Parents of students who will be entering grades 5 and 6 (students are welcome) are invited to meet in the auditorium for an informational presentation about our course of studies from 6:00-7:00 PM.

Parents of students entering grades 7 and 8 (students are welcome) are invited to attend a presentation in the auditorium from 7:30-8:00 PM. Grade 8 mirrors grade 7, with the Elective course replacing Enrichment. Electives allow some choice, and information regarding those choices goes home in early June. We hope to see you there!

Official course selection materials will be sent home with students within a week or so after the Program of Studies evening.

Our MCAS testing dates for each grade and subject are on the district calendar. This testing starts on March 30th for students in grade 5. Each of the other grade levels will follow over the subsequent days. The ELA sessions will take place first, followed later by math for all grade levels and science and technology in grades 5 and 8. The keys to success for students on these days will be getting a good night's sleep, eating a healthy breakfast, and putting forth their best effort. As a reminder, breakfast is available to all students each day of the school year in the cafeteria for \$1.50.

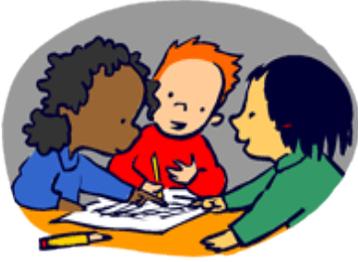
Don't forget to check the enclosed calendar for March events....and think Spring!

Warm Regards,
Kerryn Frazier



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Tips for Helping Your Child With Homework

- Set up a consistent routine for homework. Create an optimal place for doing homework – quiet, well-lit, and in proximity to needed supplies.
- Turn off extraneous electronics and devices. This includes television, tablets, cell phones, and computer if not needed for homework. Consider removing them from the workspace as they are so distracting.
- Help with organization. Encourage your child to use their agenda to keep track of assignments as well as practice and game schedules, concert dates, etc... Seeing the full schedule can help with time management skills.
- Help your child prioritize assignments. Items due sooner should be completed first. Break down larger assignments into smaller parts. Suggest to your child that the harder subjects be tackled first, when they are more fresh and energetic.
- Don't procrastinate! Try to get a head start on work when you can. Weekends are a great time to get a little bit extra accomplished.
- Keep an eye on things. If your child seems frustrated, offer a short break. If it is taking an extremely long time or they are stuck, encourage them to move on and return later or confer with the teacher.
- Protect their play and relaxation time! Research has shown that too much stress decreases a child's ability to learn. Make sure to encourage a balance of work and play. Reach out to your child's school counselor if you have concerns.





LIBRARY NOTES

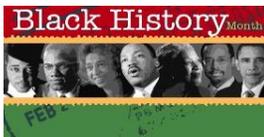
The American Library Association recently announced their selection of the best books to hit the shelves in 2019. Among those of interest to readers at the Ahern are:

- New Kid - Craft (Newbery Medal)
- Genesis Begins Again - Williams
- Undeclared - Alexander
- Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky - Mbalia
- Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks - Reynolds
- Sal and Gabi Break the Universe - Hernandez
- White Bird: A Wonder Story - Palacio

Many of these titles did prove popular with our students, BUT, added to the list are Ahern favorites:

- Allies - Gratz
- Unteachables - Korman
- Guts - Telgemeier
- Roll With It! - Sumner
- Charlie Thorne and the Last Equation - Gibbs
- Songs for a Whale - Kelly
- The Bridge Home – Venkatraman

Lucy Maud Montgomery, her life and her works, will highlight the Ahern Book Club's agenda for the next two months. Beginning with *Lantern Hill* and moving onto *Emily of New Moon*, *Anne of Avonlea*, the *Chronicles of Avonlea*, and the short stories, we will be busy. At present, there are a solid 12 members of the club. Open enrollment at all times. Monday afternoon, 2:30 to 3:30 in the library classroom.



To coincide with Black History Month, students enrolled in the 8th grade elective, Sports History, have focused on Marlin Briscoe, Josh Gibson, Chuck Cooper, Satchel Paige, Len Bias, and the Rucker Park Basketball Experience. Great fun! We will spend at least two sessions on Jackie Robinson during the next month.

Remember, the library is available to all Ahern students after school each day from 2:30 to 3:30 for Directed Study. All are welcome.

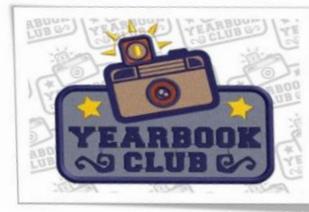


Women in Technology, Computing, & Programming

The Girls Who Code club is in search of women with a career in Technology, Computing, or Programming. We would like to connect our students with specialists in the field to learn more about their experiences.

Contact Dan Ambrosio ambrosiod@foxborough.k12.ma.us

ATTENTION PARENTS OF 8TH GRADERS:



The Yearbook Club needs your help!

As we look towards spring, a group of 8th grade students is working on putting together this year's yearbook (stay tuned for info about how you can order your child's copy...).



One of the most popular sections of the book is **Baby Pictures of 8th Graders!**

A few years ago we revived this tradition, and the kids love it. They enjoy trying to figure out who is who, and it creates a lot of laughs. If you have a picture of your 8th grader as a baby (or young toddler), please email it to Mr. Williams, the Yearbook Club Faculty Advisor, at williamsd@foxborough.k12.ma.us by the end of the month. It is our goal to get a picture of every kid -- and we have come pretty close in the past!

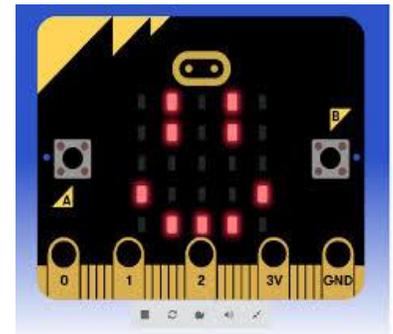
Thanks in advance for your help in making this yearbook a keepsake to treasure forever.

Dan Williams, Ed. M
Social Studies 8A
Ahern Middle School

7TH & 8TH CSIM (COMPUTER SCIENCE FOR INNOVATORS AND MAKERS) with Mrs. Isaksen

Many group posters from the start of Term 3 are hanging in the hallway and in the room displaying their drawing of what they thought a Computer Scientist would look like and six characteristics about that person. All groups had to create a secret message with the Digital Dive playing cards to simulate a user giving commands to a computer system (the audience/peers in class). They were not allowed to talk and had to communicate their message accurately just like when they are logged onto a computer. This tied in with our previous class discussion about the differences between hardware and software, examples of each and how they worked together.

Students have logged into their PLTW accounts and have begun to work on the activities within Lesson 1 with their first chosen partner. The beginning activities are showing students how to be accurate with writing algorithms, how a flowchart can also represent their algorithms and the importance of communication. We tried out the micro:bits and learning how to use alligator clips. Next, we start with the online tutorials, uploading their programs to the micro:bits which will light up the leds and coding their own programs



The last two months have been a huge success for the Ahern Middle School Student Council. We have completed our biggest fundraiser of the year, which was the Winter Carnival. All the hard work from our team made that activity a success.

We will participate in Spirit Week, which will be discussed by our members soon. Another exciting activity we will establish is Pennies for Patients, which we will start during the month of March.