

## ARHS COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER

Despite the temperatures this week, spring is in the air at ARHS. This week we experienced some of the usual springtime events, but with some new twists. Students in 11th grade took the first-ever online SATs; sophomores were able to experience the PreACT with traditional paper and pencil. Seniors who are planning to participate in Senior Service Learning Program spent Wednesday off-campus finalizing their SSLP work site paperwork and establishing relationships with their mentors, while others worked on their Senior Interest Project or planned for life after high school. The entire 9<sup>th</sup> grade participated in anti-bias work through workshops led by our faculty and conceived of by our joint student-parent-faculty No Place for Hate Committee. As the days are getting longer, spring sports have started, third marking period ends next Tuesday, we will host the annual college fair next Thursday, and the spring musical will debut next Friday. April break will be a welcome respite from the whirlwind of third marking period. With every “regular” school experience that we create (or recreate) for our students, it is important to be reflective on how different this spring is from the last two. In March of 2020, the hallways were empty, and the school community was silenced. We were scrambling to create some semblance of online learning that would last the rest of the school year. In March of 2021, our school community continued to tentatively roll through a school year, wondering if and when we were going to have to resort back to the silence of the year before. As we make our way through the spring of 2022, the tension has begun to ease and the hallways, classrooms, cafeteria, gymnasiums, and entire campus is feeling like a high school should feel in the middle of a school year. Our students and staff have, collectively, demonstrated many characteristics outlined in the BOWA Portrait of the Graduate and we will continue to work to provide a positive scholastic environment where all students can develop the skills and dispositions to become contributing members of a just society. Have a good weekend.

Sincerely,

*Anna N. Mahon*

Principal

**Colleges of the Week**-After a 3-year hiatus, Amity High School's annual "**College Fair**" is back! Please join us on **Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup> from 6:30-8pm** as we host approximately 100 representatives from colleges, universities, trade schools and the military. Students and family members will have the chance to speak with representatives in person and learn more about each school's offerings. **Juniors and sophomores are especially encouraged to attend.** Please click [HERE for a list of schools](#) attending the College Fair. For more information, contact the Career Center at 203-397-4836.

## **Happenings and Information**

**End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Marking Period and Report Card Distribution:** As a reminder, 3<sup>rd</sup> marking period will end on Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. Report cards will be available and distributed electronically by the end of the following week prior to April break.

**Upcoming USA Gap Fair coming to Fairfield!** Students & parents are welcome to attend an in-person gap year fair at **Fairfield Ludlow High (gymnasium), 785 Unquowa Road, Fairfield, CT on Wednesday, March 30, 2022 from 6:00 to 8:00pm.** Get the most up to date information about gap year basics, how the gap year field has adapted to COVID, tips for researching & planning your gap year, navigating the college deferral process, and which programs are accepting applications. For more information and to register for this event, please click [here](#).

**Join College Board for Real Talk, College Ready Edition, on Wednesday, March 30, at 7 p.m.** Real Talk is a College Board virtual college exploration initiative designed to connect Black students, parents, and educators with admissions representatives from colleges and universities across the country. Real Talk will help you learn how the courses you take in high school impact your college journey and your professional career. You will hear directly from students and college planning experts about the importance of challenging coursework, advocating for your ideal schedule and more. This event is for first-year students, sophomores, and juniors, as well as their parents/guardians. Real Talk is a safe space for Black students and their families to get their college planning questions answered. This event is for first-year students, sophomores, and juniors, as well as their parents. Please [RSVP here](#).

**Amity in the news:** On Monday 3/21, WFSB news (channel 3) visited Amity for a feature on pollinators, spring gardening, and the ARHS apiary. Please visit [this link](#) to view the segment.

**ARHS National English Honors Society:** Students who need help with upcoming essay or research papers are encouraged to reach out to members of NEHS. Starting March 29th, students are welcome to stop by the Writing Center after school on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays from 2:25-2:50. There will be members of the National English Honors Society to assist them! Reach out to Mrs. Clark, Ms. Kimball, or Mrs. Kane with any questions.

### **PTSO News:**

- Donations needed for Amity High School College Fair 2022: Representatives from over 125 colleges will visit the school on March 31<sup>st</sup> to meet with students and parents, provide information and answer questions. The guidance

department provides dinner for the reps and the PTSO provides desserts and drinks. Please help us make this event a success by donating a dessert or drink. For more information and to sign up, please visit [this page](#).

- **Volunteers needed:** Watch out for our sign-up sheets, as we get closer to Teacher Appreciation Week and the sale of graduation balloons.
- **Support the PTSO when shopping on Amazon Smile:** When you designate the PTSO as your preferred charity on Amazon Smile, Amazon donates a percentage to the PTSO. Please support us every time you shop by visiting [this site](#) and selecting Amity High School PTSO Inc. as the charity of your choice.
- **Join our monthly meetings:** PTSO meetings take place on the third Thursday of every month in the school's library media center. We hope to see you on April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm!

## **Senior Happenings**

**Community Service Information for Seniors:** Seniors who have completed **80 hours** of volunteer service during their high school career at Amity will be recognized at graduation. Each Senior will receive a certificate and a special honor cord at graduation. **All signed community service forms must be handed in and posted into PowerSchool no later than Monday, April 4th, 2022.** If you have any questions regarding community service, please stop by the Career Center.

**Attention Seniors! Scholarship Season has begun!** Please find the most recent and local scholarships on our school website [here](#). For questions or help with applying, please see Mrs. Vallie in the Career Center.

## **Notes from Counseling Department**

### **Student volunteer opportunities:**

- **Volunteers Needed:** The **Orange Bicentennial Family Dinner** will held on Saturday June 25, 2022 (rain date Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup>) at the High Plains Community Center grounds. Students are needed for help with organizing and running the games and activities planned for that day. Mary L. Tracy School's Children Fair is looking students to help with their fair on Saturday, April 2, 2022 (rain date is Sunday April 3, 2022). Most events will be outdoors. Please click on the [following link](#) to sign up for this event. If you have any questions, please stop by the Career Center.
- **Spring-Break Volunteer Opportunity-**Work with the **Woodbridge Park Association** is conducting trail clearing and removable of invasive species plants. Volunteers can pick 2 days early in the break (3-4 hours each

day) from **April 11-13<sup>th</sup>**. If interested, please contact Mrs. Nork at [Alison.beres-nork@amityregion5.org](mailto:Alison.beres-nork@amityregion5.org).

- **Volunteer at the Mary L. Tracy School Fair on Saturday, April 2, 2022 (rain date April 3<sup>rd</sup>) from 10:00am to 3:00pm.** [Sign-up here](#) for a variety of fun activities!
- **April Break Outside:** Want to get outside and earn community service hours? On Tues and Wed, 4/12 and 4/13, we are hosting an “alternative spring break” community service option for students to assist with the removal of invasive plant species on our campus and the nearby blue trail. The times are 9-1 but students are not required to stay for the entire duration. This is a great opportunity for students to help create a campus landscape that promotes native plant diversity to benefit our pollinator species, and therefore all of us! Staff members from the Southwest Conservation District will also be on-site to lend us a hand. You will learn plant identification skills and management strategies while enjoying some time outside! Please email Mrs. Nork ([alison.beres-nork@amityschools.org](mailto:alison.beres-nork@amityschools.org)) if you are interested in volunteering. Whether it's 1 hour or 8 hours, any amount is appreciated!

### **Upcoming Summer Programs & Camps at Quinnipiac University:**

Quinnipiac University is offering a growing list of courses, workshops and camps all designed to give high school students a chance to grow academically and personally while getting an early taste of the college experience. Faculty, staff and students will support these programs across all 8 schools and the College of Arts and Sciences. For a list of courses and more information, please click [here](#).

**Are you a student thinking of pursuing a career in law enforcement?** The **New Haven FBI Field Office** in partnership with the **Yale University Police Department** will be offering a summer youth program called **Future Law Enforcement Youth Academy (FLEYA)** from **July 17-July 23, 2022**. Students who are graduating in the spring of 2022 are not eligible. Students 16-18 yrs. of age are eligible. This is an overnight camp at Yale University. FLEYA will give 30 Connecticut high school students between the ages of 16 and 18, an inside look at today's FBI, while simultaneously exposing them to various local, state and federal law enforcement agencies and practices. Classroom training will be provided on various subjects including: cyber technology, investigative forensics, domestic and international terrorism, civil rights (hate crimes) and more. The FBI New Haven is currently accepting **applications, which are due April 1, 2022**. A completed application must be emailed in PDF format to [FLEYAprogram@fbi.gov](mailto:FLEYAprogram@fbi.gov). Please use this link for an application: <https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/fbi-new-haven-fleya-2022-application-012622.pdf/view>. Feel free to find more information at this link: <https://youtu.be/wcYziCEcJHA>, and email [FLEYAprogram@fbi.gov](mailto:FLEYAprogram@fbi.gov) with any further questions.

**The American Legion Department of Connecticut and the Connecticut State Police**, announce their joint sponsorship of the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual State Police Youth Week. This program is a law enforcement practicum for high school students completing their **JUNIOR YEAR** in 2022. The program will be held at the State

Police Academy in Meriden, CT from **Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, August 13, 2022**. Students considering a law enforcement career are encouraged to attend. **Applications must be completed by May 2, 2022**. Due to strict limitations on the number of participants (24 students), late or incomplete applications will not be considered. For more information and applications, please see Mrs. Vallie in the Career Center.

The **2022 Lieutenant Governor's Coding Challenge** is a statewide coding competition for Connecticut students in grades 3 through 12. Students are challenged to create applications designed to inspire health and wellness for all. This includes three options for submission: concept challenged prototype challenge and development challenge. For more information, please click [here](#). **Submissions will be accepted until April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022**.

## **Important Reminders**

**Peer Tutoring Help:** *We will begin offering "Working Wednesdays Drop-In Peer Tutoring" on Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> and continue through June 1st.*

*This is in addition to our other services - we still offer drop-in peer tutoring after school (on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Career Center) as well as 1 to 1 tutoring by completing [the form HERE](#).*

## **Athletics**

**Amity HS Athletic Booster Club:** The Booster Club is an all-sport booster club that promotes school spirit and community pride. A parent run organization prides itself with supporting all of our athletes and coaches. The support we give through volunteering and fundraising help contribute to equipment needs, various projects for Amity Athletics and annual scholarships. Please attend our monthly meetings on the 1st Thursday of each month. We meet at AHS, room 501 at 6:30pm. Our next meeting is April 7th.

**SAVE THE DATE! June 5th is Amity Family Fun Day!** Join us for games and raffles...more info to follow. View the flyer [here](#). Visit our [Athletic Booster Club](#) link through the [Amity Athletics website](#) to join today!

**Spring Sports:** Please visit the [Amity Athletics website](#) for information regarding schedules and results.

## **Community Happenings**

**Amity Creative Theater presents *Mamma Mia!*** Buy your tickets now for this year's spring musical presented by A.C.T. There will be 5 shows; click [this link](#) for tickets.

**Nominations for Bethany First Selectman's Youth Award Sought:** If you know a Bethany youth (up to 18 years old) who has volunteered their time working to improve the Town of Bethany or its residents, consider nominating that deserving resident. Principals, teachers, fellow students, neighbors, group, and religious leaders, etc., are encouraged to make nominations. Parents or family members may not nominate a relative. Nominations are due to the First Selectman's Office by April 11. The winner will receive an award and a gift at a date to be determined later this spring. The nomination form can be found on the Town [Website](#) or call the office at 203-393-2100 x 1100.

**From Woodbridge Youth Services-** Call 203-389-3429 or email [npfund@woodbridgect.org](mailto:npfund@woodbridgect.org) for information or to sign up for programs. Like us on Facebook [Woodbridge, CT Youth Services](#)

- **Nominations for First Selectman's Youth Award Sought:** If you know a Woodbridge youth (up to 18 years old) who has volunteered their time working to improve the Town of Woodbridge or its residents, consider nominating that deserving resident. Principals, teachers, fellow students, neighbors, group, and religious leaders, etc. are encouraged to make nominations. Parents or family members may not nominate a relative. Nominations are due to Youth Services by April 4. The winner will receive an award and a gift at a date to be determined later this spring. The nomination form can be found on the [Town Website](#) or call the office at 203-389-3429.
- **Job Bank:** Spring arrives with the need for yard cleanup and garden prep. Residents may call to hire teens to do odd jobs. Teens who want paid work should contact Youth Services to schedule an interview. The Job Bank is a referral service for residents who offer odd jobs to resident teens ages 13 – 18.
- **JOB POSTING- Town of Woodbridge Per Diem Program Assistants Wanted:** Assist with occasional evening or after-school youth programs under the direction of the coordinator. \$15.07/hr. See Town of Woodbridge [website](#) for more information.

