

ARHS Community Happenings Newsletter, November 24, 2023

Happy Thanksgiving! We hope that the holiday yesterday was an opportunity for everyone to reconnect with family and friends, and that the long weekend is a restful time for you as well.

We packed a lot into a short week at Amity before the holiday, and a few highlights included:

- Thanks to the organization of Black Rock Theater (directed by Amity 2010 grad Connor Deane) and the generous support of the Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation, our performing arts students had the opportunity on Monday to hear from and work with the two lead actors from the original Broadway production of *Mean Girls*, which will be our 2024 spring musical. Professional actors Erika Henningsen and Kyle Selig spoke with students in our Theater 1, Theater 3, Musical Theater Workshop, Honors Choir, and Band classes, and then they coached 10 students on their audition materials for *Mean Girls*. Thank you to Black Rock Theater and the Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation for making this possible!
- And on Tuesday, the library hosted 2013 Amity grad Sabrina Brier, who has gone on to become a successful performer, writer, and social media celebrity. Sabrina spoke to more than 50 students from several different classes over two sessions, and she discussed how Amity prepared her for life in college and beyond, how brand deals work, and how she thoughtfully plans the content she publishes on social media. She also provided students with advice on finding and following the right path to achieve their long-term goals. Thank you to Sabrina for coming back and sharing what you learned with our current students!
- Staying on the topic of Amity grads giving back, on Wednesday we hosted our annual Alumni Panel for students in grades 11 and 12. Ten graduates from the Classes of 21, 22, and 23 met with each grade for a class period to talk about how Amity helped prepare them for life in college, what has been most surprising and most rewarding for them in college, and what advice they have for our current students in successfully planning for life after high school.
- Quinnipiac University held its annual "On-Site Acceptance Day" at Amity on Tuesday, and during the event they reviewed, interviewed, and accepted 17 members of the Class of 2024 to the university. Congratulations!
- In Amity athletics, the annual Flag Football game took place at home on Monday night. It was a cold night, but our team and coaches did a great job playing an unfamiliar sport in front of an enthusiastic crowd. And on Thursday morning we held the last contest of the fall sport season, our annual Thanksgiving Day game. Now our athletes' attention turns to winter sports, which will begin competition in a few short weeks. Congratulations to all of our Fall athletes, and good luck to all of our Winter athletes!

Andre Hauser

Principal

Amity Happenings and Information

- **Winter Sports Registration:** Parents/Guardians are reminded to register your child for winter sports as soon as possible. We already have over 200 registered and have begun to approve registrations. [Here is the link](#) for our registration information page.
- **National Spanish Honor Society Toy Drive:** The NSHS is having a Toy drive to benefit the children of Fair Haven School until Dec 9th. We will love and appreciate your support. You can donate a new toy under \$10 or make a monetary donation during lunch waves at the NSHS table.

Yearbook Information

- **Buy Your Yearbook:** Don't miss out - reserve your copy today for the 2024 yearbook! Yearbook purchases are now available! Buy a yearbook now for \$85 at www.jostensyearbooks.com (Please type Amity Regional High School into the search field) OR scan the QR code on one of the flyers!

College and Career of the Week

Happy Thanksgiving to all! The “College & Career of the Week” will return next week. In the meantime, check out this chart of Connecticut’s public universities - UCONN, Central CT State, Eastern CT State, Southern CT State and Western CT State. We may live in a small state, but we are very fortunate to have five affordable universities to choose from. Check out [the comparison chart HERE](#) and follow the links to learn more about each school.

Notes from the Counseling Department

- **Are you interested in mentoring disadvantaged youth in your community?** Please consider helping **New HYTEs** (New Haven Youth Tennis & Education). New HYTEs is designed to enrich the lives and positively affect the future of New Haven’s economically disadvantaged youth through a program that incorporates life skills curriculum, academic support, and promotes both character building and health benefits through the participation in athletics through tennis. The mission is to provide a pathway to post-secondary success. Please click [here](#) to join this program.
- **Open House-Local Tech School:** Bristol Technical Education Center in Bristol CT is offering an OPEN HOUSE on Thursday, December 7, 2023 from 5 to 7pm. Click [HERE](#) for more information. Find a [list of programs](#) offered at Bristol T.E.C. Registration to attend this Open House is not required.
- ARHS will sponsor two sophomore students to attend the annual Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) Seminar to be held June 4-7 at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven. Students spend the time engaging in leadership development activities, collaborating with like-minded students from throughout the state, and exploring leadership from three perspectives: individual, group, and society. For more information about HOBY, please visit their website [here](#). Interested students should complete the application that was emailed to them in their school email address. Applications are due by Friday 12/1 at 8 PM. Please be aware that the selected students are required to stay overnight at the location of the event

under the supervision of HOBY for the entire duration of the event. Please see your counselor if you have further questions.

Amity HS Athletics Booster Club

- JOIN THE BOOSTER CLUB! Join us in supporting and celebrating our athletes by becoming a member of the Athletics Booster Club. Membership is now open! Visit our updated website and join here: <https://sites.google.com/amityschools.org/amityathleticsboosterclub/home>
- Join for a chance to win an Amity winter pompom hat! When you join now through December 6, you will be entered into the drawing to be held Thursday, December 7.
- Purchase your Amity A decal sticker and PROUD yard sign today! Decal stickers are \$3 (small, 3”w by 2”h) and \$5 (large, 4”w by 2.5”h). Yard signs are \$15, payment through PayPal or Venmo. Please email goamityspartans@gmail.com to order yours today!

Parent-Teacher-Student Organization (PTSO) Information

- **Wishing you and your family a very Happy Thanksgiving!!!** 🦃
- **Please Support Us!** Joining the PTSO does not require you to volunteer, it enables us to continue to support and fund events and special celebrations for our students, teachers and school. To join the PTSO, please visit our website amityptso.org and under membership click on Click here to join!
- We will not be having a December meeting, our next monthly meeting will be January 18, 2024
- **Join our Facebook Group by** Be a part of our virtual community by visiting [this page](#) and answering the security questions required to gain access

Community Information

- **Woodbridge Youth Services News:** Call 203-389-3429 or email npfund@woodbridgect.org for information or to sign up for programs.
 - *Sign up for Youth Services Notifications:* <https://www.woodbridgect.org/list.aspx>
 - *See Youth Services' Website:* <https://www.woodbridgect.org/160/Youth-Services>
 - *Follow us on Facebook:* <https://www.facebook.com/WoodbridgeYouthServices.CT>
- **Woodbridge Youth Services Community Service Opportunities:**
 - **Tech Tuesdays (or other days as needed):** Students assist older adults who wish to learn about cell phones, PCs, and laptops.
 - **Food Pantry (Now):** The local scouts recently collected lots of food in Woodbridge and we need students to come after school or on days off (like Tuesday) or on early dismissal days to sort and shelve the food. Must be scheduled with Youth Services in advance. Contact us for more information.
 - **Helping the Homeless :** Families may participate by making individual “We Care” Bags for New Reach Foundation in New Haven. Fill 1-Gallon resealable bags with items for the homeless which may include new socks, gloves, hats, underwear, protein bars, fruit cups, small toiletries, hygiene items, and \$5 gift cards for Dunkin, Starbucks, Subway, etc. A note or card with a positive message may be included. Larger items like new pillows, blankets, and family size toiletries and cleaners will also be accepted for the shelters. Drop off day is Wednesday, December 6th from 2:15 to 4:15 or call Youth

Services for other available times. Community Service hours will be approved for the hours worked.

- **Woodbridge Conservation Trust:** Need assistance clearing trails for few hours on Sundays. Spend time outside with friends doing a service to your community.
- **Job Bank Seeks Woodbridge and Bethany Teens Who Want Work**
- The Job Bank guides teens ages 13-18 as they apply, interview, and earn money doing odd jobs for Woodbridge residents. Teens are needed now. Contact the Job Bank to schedule your interview. Jobs include yard work, babysitting, housework, animal care, tutoring and tech assistance. Residents may call 203-389-3429 to hire a student.
- **Toys 4 Kids:** Toys for local families in need will be accepted in donation boxes at the Woodbridge Library or in the Woodbridge Center Building near the gym. Thanks for your generosity.
- **Fuel Assistance** is available for families who qualify. Please contact your town's Human Services Department to apply or apply directly online through TEAM's website:
<https://teaminc.org/home-heating-assistance/>
- **Woodbridge Youth Advisory Board:** Woodbridge Youth Services seeks Woodbridge parents to join its Advisory Board which meets five times per year (September through May). Contact Nancy Pfund at 203-389-3429 for more information. Our goal is to create diversity within our board.

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