



AHS Parent Newsletter: Thurs., Feb. 15

Principal's Message

What a week. Monday, we had our Spring Sports meeting for the parents of all the students who play spring sports. In all we had more than 350 people in attendance. Thank you for supporting your child in their athletic endeavors. Additionally, four of our five winter sports teams qualified for the NCS playoffs. I was fortunate enough to make it to both Boys' Soccer vs. Livermore on Tuesday and Boys' Basketball vs. Las Lomas last night. I'm sad to say that I did not get to watch our Girls' Soccer team take on Bishop O'Dowd on Tuesday since I was at the Boys' Soccer game. Girls' Basketball ended their season at Bishop O'Dowd while both Boys' Basketball and Boys' Soccer teams advance to the next level. Boys' Soccer will take on Newark Memorial tomorrow night at Newark Memorial High School, at 7:00 pm and the Boys' Basketball team will take on Moreau Catholic in Hayward on Saturday night.

Encourage Reading – Next week

Whenever I sit down to write to you, I try to include helpful information and good news about all the great things that students are doing here at AHS. Well, all those great things are still going on, but this newsletter is focusing on a few other important issues that I hope you will reflect on and process with your children.

Next week, students will not have classes all week in recognition of Presidents' Day. I want to strongly encourage all students to still be reading during the break. I heard from a parent once that the average high schooler spends 4-6 hours on their smart phones or video games. Now, I'm not saying that your child is on their device 4-6 hours a day but I'm confident that if they have a phone then they are contributing to that number. Scary thought is for each kid that is under that time, there is another kid over that time in order to achieve that average. I am begging that you encourage/force/bribe your child to split the time they spend on devices and dedicate half of that to reading or going outside if the weather permits. I look forward to returning to school on Monday, February 26, and finding out what students read and did over the break.

Progress Reports

Student's progress reports are due the week we return from Presidents' week break and should be viewable to you by Friday, March 1. Historically, during the third quarter, Alameda High School sees a spike in the number of students earning Ds and Fs in their classes. In fact, we have historically seen about a 3% increase in the number of Ds and Fs earned third quarter as compared to first quarter and first semester grades, and a 2% greater number of Ds and Fs during third quarter than at the end of the year. There has been much speculation as to why such an increase occurs during third quarter. It is most likely due to increased academic rigor for students during second semester and decreased attention on the part of students during the same time period. We

cannot do much about the rigor of the academics, as that is regulated by state academic standards and needing to cover materials necessary to prepare students for the next level of their education. However, with encouragement from you and some planning and recommitment on the part of the students, any decrease in effort and attention to work can be curbed or slowed. Students are starting to get spring fever and we need to redirect their attention back to their studies. I am hoping that you can assist us in helping your child be successful.

Support – Partnership

Ok, so to review your assignments going forward:

1. Help to balance your child's life by including more reading and outdoor activities.
2. Check to see if your child needs to refocus on their academics in the second half of the year so as to provide them greater choices in their future.

I thank you for your support and partnership in helping these young people grow and mature.

If you have any questions or concerns, you may email me at rithurnburn@alamedaunified.org or you can call the school at (510) 337 – 7022 and I will try to address them.

Reminder – School Break

Reminder that there is no school tomorrow, February 16, nor all of next week in honor of Presidents' week. We look forward to having all students back to school on Monday, February 26. Have a safe and restful week.

Robert Ithurnburn
Hornet Pride!



Weekly Bulletin



Presidents' Week Break ~ No Classes: 2/16-2/23

Friday, February 16

7:00pm	Basketball: Women's Quarterfinals vs Liberty	AHS New Gym
7:00pm	Soccer: Men's Quarterfinals vs Newark Memorial	Newark Memorial HS

Saturday, February 17

7:00pm	Basketball: Men's Playoff vs Moreau	Moreau HS
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Monday, February 19

Tuesday, February 20

Wednesday, February 21

Thursday, February 22

4:30pm	Volleyball: Men's JV vs Oakland High School	AHS New Gym
5:45pm	Volleyball: Men's Varsity vs Oakland High School	AHS New Gym

Friday, February 23