



# Mail from the Middle

October 2008

## Fall Calendar

### OCTOBER:

- 10 Oct: Teacher In-Service Day
- 23 Oct: Conference Day (no school)
- 24 Oct: Conference Day (no school)
- 27 Oct: Conference Day (no school)
- 30 Oct: **Picture Retake Day**

### NOVEMBER:

- 2 Nov: End Daylight Savings Time—Change clocks
- 4 Nov: Election Day 
- 10 Nov: No School 
- 11 Nov: No School
- 13 Nov: Drama Club Performance
- 14 Nov: Drama Club Performance
- 20 Nov: AMS Orchestra Concert
- 21 Nov: End of 1st Trimester (grades mailed home next week)
- 26 Nov: 11:30 Early Release Day
- 27 Nov: Happy Thanksgiving
- 28 Nov: No school / Holiday



AMS Band marches in the Ashland Festival of Lights Parade



## A Letter From The Principal

Dear Parents and Students,

As the fall season is now in full swing and leaves have begun the change, students and staff here at the middle school have settled into the new school year quite nicely. Our campus is certainly busy and filled to capacity with students from Bellview, John Muir and sports teams from the High School. It's been great to see so many smiling faces back on campus. The students' positive energy and excitement has been truly contagious.

Around this time of the year, as students acclimate to the rhythm of their school days, your ongoing support continues to be extremely important. Please make sure to create and maintain consistent routines before school and during the evening time. Also, please continue to check in with your child each day, asking specific, open-ended questions about what they have learned in particular classes and what they need to do to be fully prepared for the following school day. Research shows that the more students think and talk about their school experiences with their parents, the more they will internalize values around education and take responsibility for their learning.

Finally, I want to remind you that conferences are coming up October 23, 24, and 27<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to seeing you all here to discuss your child's interests, strengths and additional needs for support. If you have not yet scheduled a conference with your child's homeroom teacher, please do so. Our goal is to have 100% parent / guardian participation at student conferences.

Sincerely,

Steve Retzlaff  
Principal, Ashland Middle School



## AMS Parent Club Meetings: Upcoming Topics

**Tuesday, October 21** - "Academic Tools for Parents"

Topics: How to use Power School. Motivators and Attitudes.  
Developing Time Management Skills in your Teen.

**Tuesday, November 18** - "Technology & Your Teenager" with Ann Barton, MA CTACC and Jim Teece of Project A.

Topics: Computers, cell phone use & etiquette, cyber bullying, internet access and "My Space" sites.

Office Personnel  
482-1611

**Principal**  
Mr. Steve Retzlaff

**Assistant Principal**  
Mr. Doug Geygan

**Guidance Counselor**  
Mrs. Jody Bradley

**AMS Secretarial Staff**  
Pearl Baumgartner, Manager  
Annette Dahlquist, Registrar  
Debbie Maulsby, Attendance  
Karin Pasche, Front Office

# AMS EXTRACURRICULAR CLUBS: Now in Progress

At AMS we offer a variety of clubs throughout the school year for students in all grades to join. Please listen to the morning announcements for details about when clubs are starting. See the list below for the various clubs available during the school year:

- |               |                  |                           |                |
|---------------|------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| ➤ Chess Club  | ➤ Art Club       | ➤ Brain Bowl              | ➤ Pentagames   |
| ➤ WAMS Club   | ➤ Leadership     | ➤ Mathcounts              | ➤ Marimba Club |
| ➤ Tennis Club | ➤ Cooking Club   | ➤ Scavenger Hunt          | ➤ Science Bowl |
| ➤ Drama       | ➤ Roots & Shoots | ➤ OSF Theatre Study Group |                |

**The following clubs are now active and meet as follows:**

**Chess Club:** Meets the 1st gold day of each week from 3:10-4:30, in room #11

**WAMS Club:** Meets the 2nd gold day of each week from 3:10-4:30, in room #11

**Cooking Club:** Wednesdays, from 3-4:45, in the commons mini kitchen

**Scrabble Club:** Wednesdays, from 3:00-4:00, in the library

**Drama Club:** Meets every day for rehearsals

**Leadership:** Fridays, from 8:30-9:15, AMS Cafeteria back room

**Juggling:** Thursdays, from 3:30-4:00, in the AMS Cafeteria back room



*AMS would like to thank the community for supporting the Youth Academics and Activities Levy that makes it possible for us to have so many clubs to offer.*

## AMS Band

### Request for Instrument Donations

The Band program at the middle school is currently accepting donations of used instruments. Each year, we try to provide school instruments to students who could not otherwise afford to rent one. With the growth in our band program over the past four years, we have rented out nearly every instrument on our shelves! We are looking for flutes, clarinets, alto saxophones, tenor saxophones, trumpets, double horns, trombones (with working slides), and baritones/euphoniums. If you happen to have one of these at your house, or you know someone who might, please contact the band director, Jenifer Carstensen, at [jenifer.carstensen@ashland.k12.or.us](mailto:jenifer.carstensen@ashland.k12.or.us). Thank you!

### Winter Band Concert

December 11, 2008

7:30 p.m.

Ashland High, Mountain Avenue Theatre

Featuring:

The Beginning Band, the Concert Band and the Jazz Band

## ASD is on the WEB!

We would like to encourage everyone to subscribe to the website.

[www.ashland.k12.or.us](http://www.ashland.k12.or.us)

1. Click on Quick Subscribe (gray button on left)
2. Click only those schools you want information from
3. Click subscribe
4. DONE
5. Receive news about your school!

### HALLOWEEN at AMS

All Costumes must follow the AMS dress code guidelines.

Along with

**NO Masks, weapons or bloody gore.**





# AMS Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences

## October 23, 24 & 27



### How To Have a Successful Parent-Teacher Conference

By now you should have received a letter home to schedule a conference with your student's teacher, and you may be feeling a bit anxious about your conference. Well, relax. Teachers like to meet with parents from time to time to discuss how to help their students do their best in school.

All students have different needs and learning styles. In order to help their students learn better, teachers must know as much as possible about each child's likes and dislikes. This is why we need your help. You know your kids best and have the most influence over them. Working together, you and the teacher can help your child have a successful school year.

#### Here Are Some Tips in Preparing for a Conference

Before you go to the conference, write notes to yourself about:



- ▶ things about your child's life at home; personality, problems, habits, hobbies, etc...
- ▶ your concerns or questions about school programs or policies
- ▶ questions about your child's progress: Is my child working up to his/her ability? Does my child participate in class discussions and activities?
- ▶ If you're noticing your child having difficulty, you may want to have the teacher watch for sudden changes, like: squinting, tiredness, or moodiness that might indicate a physical or other problem.
- ▶ be sure to have your child write down their questions as well

During the conference it is a good idea to ask your most important questions first, just in case you run short on time. If the teacher says something you don't quite understand, don't be shy about asking for an explanation. This is your chance to get the year off to a great start and develop a great working relationship with their teacher.

After the conference stay in regular touch with the teachers to follow-up if needed about concerns discussed during the conference. Building a strong parent-teacher partnership is essential in reaching your common goal of helping your child get the best education possible.

### AMS Academic Support Center (ASC)



This year the Academic Support Center (ASC) will continue to offer one-on-one support to students in the Ashland Middle School community. The center

now boasts seven part-time tutors and one fulltime coordinator.

The academic support center will be available to more students this year, with the introduction of the INC (Individual Needs Class) period. Last year, students who were referred to the ASC, had to miss a

class in order to go to the center. This year, the INC period will allow students a time to go to the center, without missing core classes. Because of this, the center will not only provide academic support, but will also focus on improving students' organizational skills and developing study habits based on students' learning styles.

If you are interested in volunteering before or after school, or at lunch, please contact Melissa Steinman;

[melissa.steinman@ashland.k12.or.us](mailto:melissa.steinman@ashland.k12.or.us)

or by phone (541) 482-1611 ext. 166

### Supporting Our Students During Deployment

In coming months, our community will experience the deployment of hundreds of National Guard members. If your family will be effected by this deployment



and would like to receive information regarding upcoming student support groups, please contact Jody Bradley at 541.482.1611 ext. 106 or by e-mail at: [Jody.Bradley@ashland.k12.or.us](mailto:Jody.Bradley@ashland.k12.or.us)



# EMERGENCY FALL FUND DRIVE **UPDATE**

The Ashland Schools Foundation has been moderately successful in gaining funds through our Emergency Fall Fund Drive, receiving donations and pledges of \$27,000 since mid-August. This will ensure that ASF can fully pay for all of the Education Support positions that were granted in the spring (see list below). We can now begin to apply funds towards restoring some of our grants, such as the high school tutoring center, that we have had to cut this year. In order to restore all grants, we would need to raise an additional \$30,000.

Thank you to the many, many parents who gave a “booster” donation in addition to their spring annual fund drive donation, and to parents who chose to continue their previous support of ASF. Thank you also, to the parents who stepped forward to become first time contributors. We welcome you to our family of donors – you’ve chosen just the right moment to make a real difference with your contribution!

## Education Support Grants funded by ASF Funds:

AHS English AP classes  
AHS Math – ½ time position  
AHS Academic College Counseling

AMS Health Program  
Elementary Reading Specialists

## JUST 27% OF AMS PARENTS HAVE DONATED TO ASF

If every family in the Ashland Schools who hasn’t given, gave just \$20, Ashland Schools Foundation could fully restore all of our grant programs! Please help us restore grants through a donation to ASF.

### HERE IS MY ASF EMERGENCY FALL FUND DRIVE DONATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
CityStateZip \_\_\_\_\_  
Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
email \_\_\_\_\_

#### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

The Ashland Schools Foundation is a 501(c)(3), non-profit public benefit corporation, organized exclusively for educational and charitable purposes. Your tax-deductible donation made through December 2008 will be used in the support of educational programs in the 2008-2009 school year.

100 Walker Avenue, Ashland, OR 97520, 541-482-8197, ashlandschoolsfoundation.org

I'd like to contribute: \_\_\_\_\_

- Benefactor \$10,000+
- Scholar \$5,000-9,999
- Valedictorian \$1,000-4,999
- Graduate \$600-999
- Champion \$300-599
- Mentor \$100-299
- Friend \$1-99

- A check is enclosed payable to ASF.
- Visa  M/C
- One time contribution
- Monthly of \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ months
- CC# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_
- Signature \_\_\_\_\_

- I'd like to make a gift of stocks and/or wish to include ASF in my will. Please call.

**\*If you have already given to ASF, thank you for your support. Please consider a booster gift.**

### Buy-in for Books is Back!

If you own a business or provide a service, and would like to be a Buy-in for Books monthly or yearlong sponsor, please contact ASF at 482-8197...or visit our website at [www.ashlandschoolsfoundation.org](http://www.ashlandschoolsfoundation.org). This vital program has provided more than \$50,000 to purchase books for the schools.

### YEARLONG SUPPORTERS (so far!)

AllClear Brush Removal • Ashland Eyecare  
Greenleaf Restaurant & Catering  
State Farm Insurance – Brian Conrad  
State Farm Insurance – Paul Finch  
Sterling Savings Bank  
T C Chevy • Travel Essentials  
Tree House Books



# AMS Interscholastic Sports

Boys & Girls Basketball is just around the corner and now is the time to make sure you are cleared for AMS sports. In order to participate all athletes must have a sports physical, by a physician or a nurse practitioner, every 2 years. A health update form must be completed during the years they don't need the physical. Additionally, all parents and athletes must sign the annual Sports Participation Contract (all forms are available in the main office). Note: If you have already participated in a Fall sport than you have already been cleared for all sports this year.



**Boys Basketball:** 7th & 8th graders

Starts: October 28th, Daily practices from 3:10-4:45

**Girls Basketball:** 7th & 8th graders

Starts: January 5th, Daily practices from 3:10-4:45

AMS has a no-cut policy and encourages all students to come out for sports.

## SPORTS PHYSICALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR A MINIMAL FEE AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

\$25.00 Ashland Family Practice (established patients) 482-2716

\$25.00 Steve Joslin, Talent Clinic 535-9108

\$36.00 Stone Medical, Ashland 488-1116

\*Please check with your doctor to see if they offer an established patient price.

## Nurse's Notes

Calling all Nurses...the AMS Student Health Services needs YOU!

- ⇒ Do you like kids?
- ⇒ Do you have a few hours to spare?

If you answered yes to these questions call:

**Belinda Brown RN, 482-1611, Ext. 105**

To learn about the volunteer opportunities available at AMS.



## State of Jefferson Scavenger Hunt

**November 12, 13, 14 & 20**

Participants in the State of Jefferson Scavenger Hunt have three days to complete answers to academic, artistic, current news, and internet questions using library resources and documentation. Middle and high school teams involve as many students and adults as possible in the high-pressure task of finding and documenting the right answers. The hunt culminates in an adjudication session chaired by a judge. During the adjudication, competing teams have the opportunity to challenge and defend their thinking skills and verbal communication.

Students in grades 6-8 may apply to be on the Scavenger Hunt Team. Applications may be obtained from their homeroom teacher. Please note that this event does take place during the school day and that they will miss 4 days in the classroom. Your student will be responsible for planning in advance to get their homework and /or make arrangements with their teachers to complete their school work.

**For more information contact the AMS Librarian:**  
Lauren Hall at 482-1611 ext. 199; [Lauren.hall@ashland.k12.or.us](mailto:Lauren.hall@ashland.k12.or.us)

## Do you know that you can earn money for AMS while you shop for groceries, gas, latte's, subways, tools and more?

The SCRIP program is a great way to earn money for AMS without spending any extra money. Do you shop at Albertson's, Market of Choice, Shop 'N' Kart or Safeway; how about Subway or Starbucks, buy gas from Shell or process photos at Advanced Photo? All of these business donate a percentage of your shopping dollars to AMS.

**Come for FREE coffee in the AMS office on Wednesday mornings (8:00-9:00am) to purchase scrip and/or learn more about the program and how you can make your shopping dollars benefit AMS.**

Free coffee is courtesy of the Case Coffee Company—Thanks for supporting schools!

## AMS Attendance Procedures:

**Attendance for Success:** Regular attendance is a key component to a student's success in school. Students must be in class to hear the teacher's explanations, participate in class discussions, learn from other's questions and receive guidance on homework. Simply stated, students need to be in class to pass.

### Procedures:

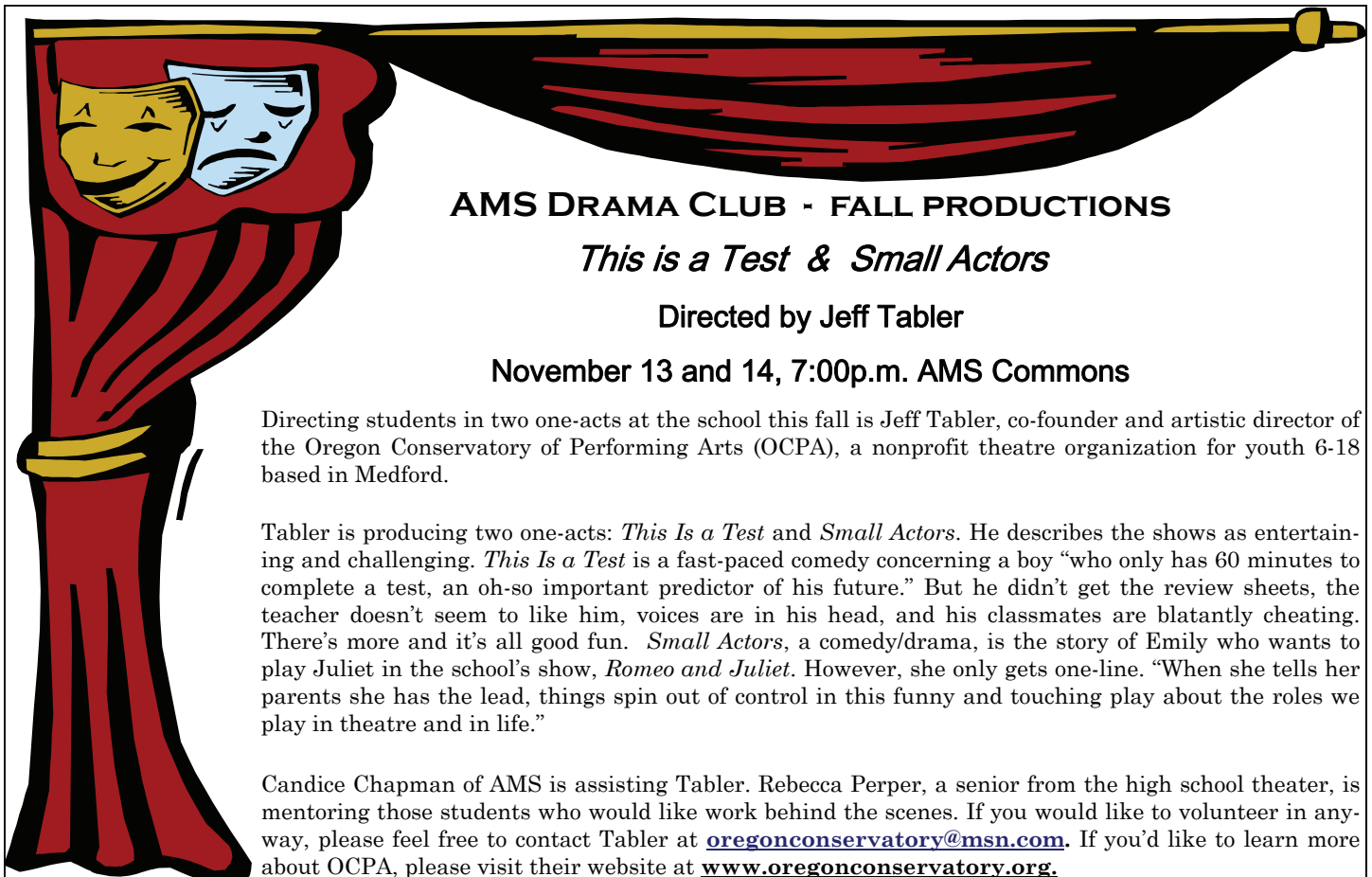
- **Arriving late for school**—You must sign-in at the attendance office window.
- **Leaving for an appointment**—You should have a note to show your teacher and then bring it with you to the attendance office to sign-out. If you are returning to school that day you will need to sign back into school.
- **Absent from school**—Your parent will either need to call and notify the school or send a written reason for the absence upon your return to school.

**Excused Absences:** Excused absences (ors.339.150) are those caused by the pupil's illness, or illness of a member of the pupil's family, or an emergency. Parents/Guardians will have 1 week to notify the school about the reason for the absences by either a phone call or sending a signed note to the attendance office. If the absence is not excused within 1 week the absence will become unexcused. Other absences may be excused when arrangements have been made in advance. Please contact the attendance secretary to arrange a pre-excused absence (482-1611, x104).

**Unexcused Absences:** If the student has no excuse for his/her absence, or it is an unexcused absence, the student may be required to make up the time missed before or after school or at lunchtime. Restrictions may be imposed on a truant student's participation in school social or activity groups, including representing the school in sports contests, for an indefinite period of time.

**Tardies:** Student tardies fall under the same guidelines and restrictions as student absences. Students who cannot make it to class within the allotted passing time will be subject to the rules and restrictions of the classroom teacher.

\*Teachers or administrators will call parents to arrange times for before or after school detentions.



**AMS DRAMA CLUB - FALL PRODUCTIONS**

*This is a Test & Small Actors*

Directed by Jeff Tabler

November 13 and 14, 7:00p.m. AMS Commons

Directing students in two one-acts at the school this fall is Jeff Tabler, co-founder and artistic director of the Oregon Conservatory of Performing Arts (OCPA), a nonprofit theatre organization for youth 6-18 based in Medford.

Tabler is producing two one-acts: *This Is a Test* and *Small Actors*. He describes the shows as entertaining and challenging. *This Is a Test* is a fast-paced comedy concerning a boy "who only has 60 minutes to complete a test, an oh-so important predictor of his future." But he didn't get the review sheets, the teacher doesn't seem to like him, voices are in his head, and his classmates are blatantly cheating. There's more and it's all good fun. *Small Actors*, a comedy/drama, is the story of Emily who wants to play Juliet in the school's show, *Romeo and Juliet*. However, she only gets one-line. "When she tells her parents she has the lead, things spin out of control in this funny and touching play about the roles we play in theatre and in life."

Candice Chapman of AMS is assisting Tabler. Rebecca Perper, a senior from the high school theater, is mentoring those students who would like work behind the scenes. If you would like to volunteer in any way, please feel free to contact Tabler at [oregonconservatory@msn.com](mailto:oregonconservatory@msn.com). If you'd like to learn more about OCPA, please visit their website at [www.oregonconservatory.org](http://www.oregonconservatory.org).



**AMS Dress Code** - It is the goal of Ashland Middle School to provide a positive, caring environment where learning can be accomplished in an orderly manner. In order for students to assume responsibility for themselves, it is important for them to know what is expected of them.

We can achieve this goal by dressing in a respectful way that is appropriate for the classroom. Ways we fail to show care, respect, and common courtesy are by dressing in a provocative or revealing way, wearing excessively torn clothes, showing bare midriffs or undergarments and wearing clothes with inappropriate advertisements or offensive comments.

Thank you for helping us promote academic, social and emotional growth for all AMS students!

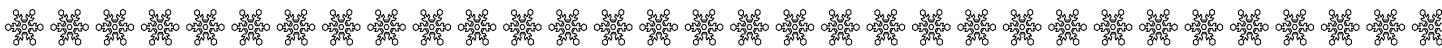
**Another Reminder:**



The following electronic devices are not to be used on campus:

MP3 players, iPods, radios, etc..

Cell phones: May be used after school to check for parent messages and make after school arrangements.



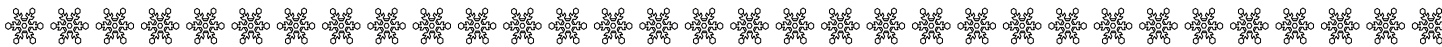
## Mt. Ashland After School Ski & Snowboard Program Registration

Registration Dates: **Wednesdays, Nov. 5, 12 & 19**

Times: **6:30—9:00 PM**

Place: **AMS Cafeteria**

Bring: **Your parents, checkbook, proof of insurance**



### City of Ashland Low-Income Energy Assistance Program

The Ashland Low-Income Energy Assistance Program is designed to help seniors, disabled persons and others in the community who might have difficulty paying their electric bills in the coming winter months.

People who have an active electric utility account with the City of Ashland and whose income does not exceed 125% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for 2001 are encouraged to apply for assistance.

Call: City Hall at 552-2038 to request an application packet and to schedule an appointment.

### AMS Library News



#### AMS Scholastic Book Fair - Dec. 4 — 9

All proceeds will benefit the AMS Library

The scholastic Book Fair offers a small, personal environment for your family to shop. It's like a bookstore, but better! Every book at the Book Fair has been reviewed and approved by reading specialists. The Fair also carries special, more affordable versions of books. For example, a hardcover of one book might be \$16.95 at a retail store, but at the Book Fair the same book, in paperback, might be \$3.95.

**Come join us for some great holiday shopping.**

**WORLD BOOK ONLINE** is now available for every student in Ashland schools. If you would like to be able to use this wonderful resource at home, have your child come to the library to pick up a free bookmark with the web address and password.



**New AMS T-Shirts**  
**\$10.00**  
**Show Your AMS Spirit!**  
Available in the Main Office



**Mail from the Middle**

Ashland Middle School  
100 Walker Avenue  
Ashland, Oregon 97520

NON-PROFIT ORG U.S. POSTAGE PAID Permit No. 8 Ashland, OR
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**AMS Student Directory**  
**For sale \$3.00**

We're on the Web!  
[www.ashland.k12.or.us](http://www.ashland.k12.or.us)