

Ahern Middle School Newsletter

January 2018



Greetings!

As we celebrate New Year's and the beginning of 2018, it is not only a time to make "New Year's Resolutions" to improve our own lives, we also have the opportunity to continue to improve our community through building positive relationships. Over the first part of this year our students have demonstrated a high degree of care for each other. We hope to build on that, through our CSC (Caring School Communities), Second Step program, grade 6 House Challenge, and other activities to bring our courtesy and respect to even higher levels.

Historically, over this gift-giving season, students often receive new technology and need guidance and supervision in its appropriate use, especially on social media. One website that contains tools for parents is Common Sense Media (<https://www.commonsensemedia.org>).

Every day gives each of us a new beginning to make a positive difference in our own lives and the lives of others. The beginning of a new year seems to bring resolutions of both personal and community improvement to the forefront of our thoughts. Working together, we can make it happen!

Thanks to all parents! We appreciate your support of your student's academics and your assistance in the school and in the community. We also thank parents who are already using

the flagpole sidewalk area and the rear drop-off/pick-up area for 3:30 pickup, reducing the number of cars in the bus circle when the late buses arrive. (No cars should be in the bus circle from 2:15-3:45, as the signs indicate, so that we can have a safe departure for all.)

I appreciate the efforts of all who are a little inconvenienced for the safety of all.

I wish everyone a safe, healthy, and happy New Year!

Respectfully,
Sue Abrams



STUDENT COUNCIL

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECTS



In December, the Student Council started a new program called **Project JOY!** Students created cards for the Discretionary Fund and made winter decorations for the school.

There were three **School Spirit Days** in the month of December. These included, *Pajama Day, Winter Spirit Day, and Festive Sweater Day.*

SPIRIT DAYS

Students did an amazing job showing their school spirit this month!



We also ran a **Pet Food Drive**, where we received many donations to help our furry friends.

Thank you all for your generous donations!

Coming up is the **Winter Carnival** at the Ahern Middle School. This is our school's largest fundraiser, and we are hoping everyone can attend.

The Winter Carnival will be on **January 20th, 2018, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.** Please consider attending, because there will be lots of fun and games!



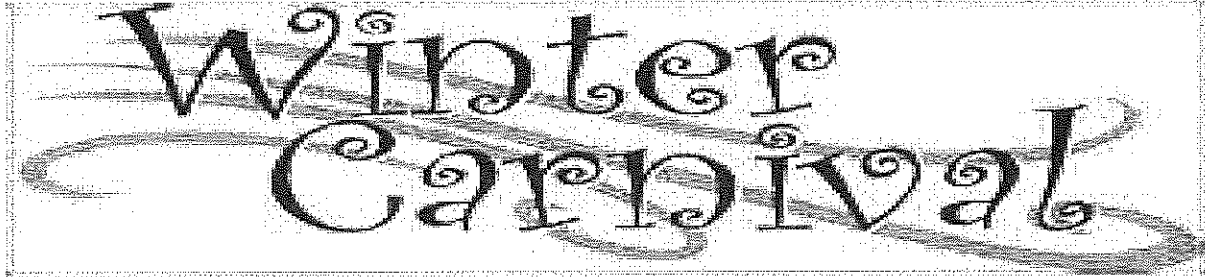
Thank you for your continued support of the Student Council.



Our next general meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 9th!**

UPCOMING JANUARY EVENTS

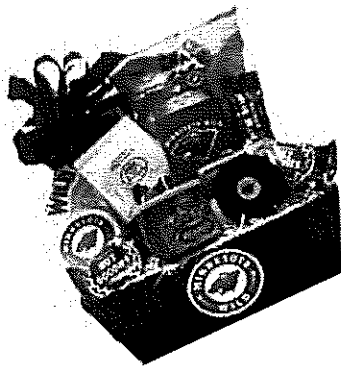
SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2018



COME JOIN THE FUN – GAMES, FOOD & RAFFLES

AHERN MIDDLE SCHOOL

11:00 am To 2:00 pm



CLASSROOM BASKETS:

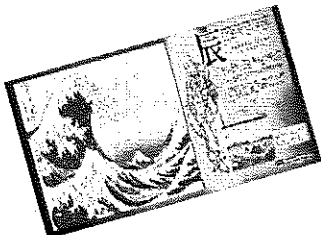
Please be on the lookout in the New Year for information from your Room Parent for your Classroom's Theme and what items you can donate to this important fundraiser.

EVENT CHAIRS: Thank you for chairing this event: **Melissa Letson**, **Connie Gonsalves (Baskets)**, **Eric Feibel (Admissions)**, and **Joanne Jacobson (Concessions)**.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Look for the **Sign-Up Genius Link** that will be coming from your Room Parent in the next week. If you can volunteer some time, please sign up.

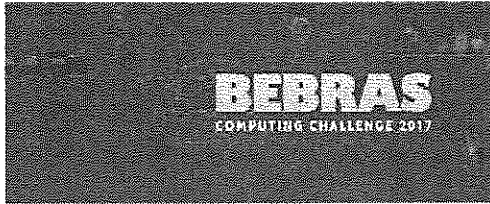


Any questions, please contact **CONNIE GONSALVES** at cvcg812@msn.com



LOOK FOR THE LIFE SIZE ART PANELS from The Traveling Art Exhibit of the Japanese ukiyo-e artist **Hokusai** on display during the Winter Carnival.

AHERN MIDDLE CLASSROOM NOTES



Mrs. Isaksen's 8th Grade Applied Technology Classes

Participate in the

2017-2018 Worldwide Bebras Computing Challenge

All of Mrs. Isaksen's 8th Grade Applied Technology classes completed a worldwide Math/Computer challenge in class. The following is a description from the website:

"The Bebras® Computing Challenge introduces computational thinking to students. It is organized in over 30 countries and designed to get students all over the world excited about computing. Each participant gets 45 minutes to answer 15 multiple-choice questions that focus on computational and logical thinking. It is completed online in your own school and it shows to the school and students how well their skills are developed."

The highest possible score on the test was 180.

Congratulations to the following students who had the top scores for Semester 1:

1. Ben R.	128
2. Caitlin O.	116
3. JB G.	112
4. Jacob T.	111
5. Kylie O.	108
Andrew P.	108
6. Paige G.	104
7. Joe D.	102
8. Julianna P.	99
9. Kate C.	96
Tim S.	96
10. Bridget M.	92

Congratulations!

AIHERN MIDDLE CLASSROOM NOTES



Applied Technology Grade 7 with Mrs. Isaksen

7th Grade: All students have learned about 25 various hand, power and machine tools. They have used a hammer for a hand tool, a drill for a power tool and are currently using a Thermoject Injection Molding machine (which extrudes liquid plastic) for a machine tool.

Your child should be coming home with a blue piece of plastic. To finish the Tools unit, each student created, and typed, a narrative essay about a hand tool, and are currently categorizing all tools in the lab using Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet and learning Shortcuts and Smart Art.

For the remaining time in the semester, students will begin learning about Electronic Communications using virtual software, which includes learning about Morse Code.

Applied Technology Grade 8 with Mrs. Isaksen



All students having been learning about inventions and innovations through the use of: watching some clips of "The Funderdome" T.V. Show while predicting who would cash out (if anyone) and who would win the money based on the audience vote, using www.kickstarter.com and www.indiegogo.com, researching products, and creating their own invention or innovation.

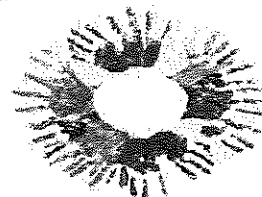
Students are currently learning about Materials and Processes which incorporates the manufacturing process of creating various items made from wood, metal or plastic. They will become familiar with the **Engineering Design Process loop** and use a lot of virtual software to conduct scientific inquiry as to why items are made of a specific material.

Currently, one person per section is making an injected molded car, game token or hockey sticks.

All students in both 7th and 8th grade participated in the Hour of Code and learned some new types of coding.



PAC NOTES



A Helping Hand
Can Change the World

UPCOMING MEETINGS: JANUARY (TBA) & FEBRUARY 1st

- Thursday, JANUARY (TBA)
- Thursday, FEBRUARY 1st at 7pm in the Ahern Library



Superintendent, Dr. Amy Bedros
(at February 1st Meeting)



Conference Call DIAL IN: 319-527-2767, ACCESS CODE
850651



NEW YEAR 'PAC' SUPPORT RESOLUTIONS

YANKEE
CANDLE®
FUNDRAISING

- ONLINE FUNDRAISING UNTIL JANUARY 10th
<https://www.yankeecandlefundraising.com/store.htm>
(GROUP CODE: 999975286)

40% for EVERY purchase to AHERN PAC...Please forward the **Online Store**
Link to your family and friends, near and far. Candles are shipped **DIRECTLY** to the buyer! Note:
iPADS cannot be used for online orders.

- AMAZON SMILE PROGRAM

amazon smile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Just shop like you always would, but start with **SMILE** at
www.SMILE.Amazon.com. Simply **CHOOSE** our school as the charity, and a
percentage of your shopping dollars are donated by **AMAZON** to the school.



- **GIFT CARD PROGRAM BY SCRIP**

Place orders at <https://www.shopwithscrip.com>

USE ENROLLMENT CODE: **A2631EBD57L89**

NEXT ORDER DEADLINES: JANUARY 5th & FEBRUARY 2nd

Any questions, please contact the Gift Card Program Coordinator, **Ellen Hawrylcw**, at echawrylcw@gmail.com



- **BOX TOPS CLASSROOM CONTESTS**

Seventh Grade Contest is **January 22 to February 2**

Eighth Grade Contest is **February 5 to February 16**

ABOUT TO EXPIRE? If you have Box Tops about to expire, please deposit them in the ***BIG GREEN BOX TOP BIN IN CORNER OF THE FRONT OFFICE*** so that we can make sure we mail them to General Mills in time!

If you have questions, please contact the Box Tops Chairperson, **Jaelyn Kiracofe** at kiracofej@gmail.com



- **STOP & SHOP PROGRAM:** Please remember to **Register your Stop & Shop Rewards card**. Go to www.stopandshop.com, under My Account, Rewards, Rewards & Savings Tab. Search for John J Ahern School and add it!

upcoming **EVENTS**

SPRINGTIME FUNDRAISER! MIXED BAG DESIGNS

Look for details at Next PAC Meeting & February Newsletter. Check out the website: <http://www.mixedbagdesigns.com>

Contact **Lauri Carroll** for questions, lauricarroll119@gmail.com



ONGOING FUNDRAISERS



• AHERN MIDDLE SCHOOL SPIRIT WEAR

Open until the **END OF THE YEAR!** Ahern PAC Foxboro Gifts & Apparel Fundraiser. Full list of items on **AHERN PAC Website**. Unique items with customizing options (including glitter lettering) available!

For Questions, please contact **Kirstin Stone** at kirstinstone@gmail.com or **Christine Olson** at cdeolson@gmail.com

ORDERS: Cash, Check (payable to Ahern PAC), or Paypal (Ahern PAC Website) - www.AhernPAC.com (Go to Store Tab)



GENERAL DONATION DRIVE (ONGOING):

General donations are at **\$6,589!** We have earned enough to potentially cover up to **70%** of our Class Enrichment & Activities Funds!

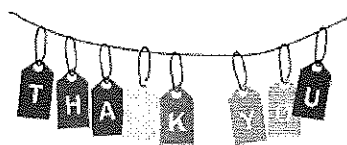
Be sure to help support our upcoming fundraisers through shopping, The Winter Carnival, etc. All proceeds from these activities goes to help fund.



2017-2018 PAC BOARD MEMBERS:

Co-Presidents: **Sarah LaDonni and Robin Stelmach**
 Secretary: **Lori Lavallee**
 Treasurer: **Jen Pollart**
 Email: president@ahernpac.org


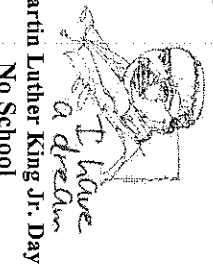
Don't Forget www.AhernPAC.com & <https://www.facebook.com/ahernpac>



To **Jen Ooi & Jacqui Gill** for Grant Writing
 To **Kirstin Stone & Christine Olson** for Holiday Spirit Wear Store
 To **Michelle Thackston** for Yankee Candle Fundraiser
 To **Ellen Hawrylcw** for Holiday Scrip Gift Cards Program

January

PARENT CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1  New Year's Day	2 Day 3	3 Day 4	4 Day 5	5 Day 6	6
7	8 Day 1 Gr. 8 Chorus Step-up Concert at FHS 6:30	9 Day 2	10 Day 3	11 Day 4 Gr. 7 Band, Chorus, Orchestra Concert 6:30	12 Day 5	13
14	15  Martin Luther King Jr. Day No School	16 Day 6	17 Day 1	18 Day 2 Staff Meeting No Late Bus Gr. 6 Band, Chorus, Orchestra Concert 6:30	19 Day 3	20 Winter Carnival 11:00 - 2:00
21	22 Day 4	23 Day 5	24 Day 6	25 Day 1 Term II Ends	26 Professional Development	27
28	29 Day 2	30 Day 3	31 Day 4			