HAT & MITTEN DRIVE
The Student Govt. and the STEM Dept are collecting warm mittens and hats for kids in need of warmth during the chilling winter. Please have your child bring in gently used or new hats and mittens in all sizes. The drive will run through February 2nd. Any donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK TODAY!
The 2019-2020 Junior High School Yearbook is now available to purchase through April 30th. Yearbooks may be purchased on-line only, no orders or money will be collected at the school. Once the ordering window closes in April, yearbooks will no longer be available for purchase when they are distributed in June. A direct link for ordering is available on the Agawam Junior High School Web Page or by visiting www.Jostens.com and searching for our school. Don't miss out on the opportunity to capture all of the memories from the 2019-2020 school year for your student!

FEBRUARY CALENDAR
11 - PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
11 - School Committee, 7:00 p.m.
13 - High School Course Selection Presentation for Parents/Guardians of 8th Grade students, 6:30PM, High School Auditorium. (Students’ course selection presentation during the school day.)
14 - Western Mass Wright Flight Club Field Trip to Air Museum
17—21 - Winter Vacation
28 - Social Night, 5:30 p.m.

January 2020
Hello chorus families! I hope you all had a wonderful winter break with your kids! Now that we're back to school, it's time to get back in the swing of things. Some important information for upcoming events:

**Wed. February 12th: AJHS- 2:20-3:20 PM**
"Sing" concert rehearsal for 8th grade chorus and HS choral groups. This is an after school rehearsal so pick up if possible is appreciated! (8th grade chorus only)

**Thurs. February 13th: AJHS- 7PM- "Sing" concert feat. small chorus, 8th grade chorus and HS choral groups.** This is a required and graded concert that is an amazing way for students to grow as singers by working with the HS chorus and see what the program has to offer! Singers will have to be there for 6:30 PM to warm up. Dress code is same as the winter concert; black on bottom, white on top. (Small chorus and 8th grade chorus only)

**Fri. March 13th:** Final payment for the Broadway field trip is due. I will be sending home a paper with the exact amount due for each student soon. (8th grade chorus only)

I'm sure most of you have heard from your children, but for those that haven't, I am pregnant with my 3rd and due in May! Because of this, I have decided to change the date of the Spring concert so that I can be there, especially to see my 8th graders off in their final concert with me! I wanted to make sure to get this date out ASAP so everyone can update their calendars!

**Thurs. April 30th- AJHS- 7PM- Spring chorus concert** feat. small chorus, 7th and 8th grade choruses. Singers will have to be there for 6:30 PM to warm up. Dress code is black on bottom, white on top, short sleeve white polos with no ties are encouraged. (Small chorus, 7th and 8th grade chorus included)

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**STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

For student government: We held an election where six students ran as candidates for President and Vice President of Student Government. Rhein I. won President and Tessa E. won Vice President. All student government representatives are ready to get to legislating!

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**NON USERS CLUB**

The Non-User’s Club has already had several events this school year. Sign ups were held for this group in October. This club is open to all grade 7 and 8 students. In October, we had students stay after school to decorate pumpkins. In November, the members took part in a Dodgeball tournament, which the youngsters enjoyed very much. We held our annual holiday party in December with treats and a movie. Students who chose to answer a short essay about the consequences of drinking alcohol and driving and explain what one can do to prevent getting into a car when the driver is visibly impaired with too much alcohol or illegal drugs. The students were given the opportunity to win Subway gift cards. Our January event was floor hockey, which will be followed by a “game day” we are planning for February. Our activities for March and April include a Tie Dye T-shirt event and a movie afternoon with popcorn! Students may still sign up for this club at any time. If any student is interested in joining, you can speak with one of the advisors for additional information. They are Mrs. Young, in room 108, Mr. Lemanski, P.E. and Mrs. Montagna in the Counseling Office.

**SCIENCE OLYMPIAD**

Science Olympiad students have been working hard on their build and test events in preparation for the state tournament. The tournament will be held March 14, 2020 at Assumption College. More detailed information will be sent home within the next few weeks. With only a handful of Mondays left before the tournament, it is critical that students make every effort to attend our Monday meetings. They have been doing a great job preparing, and we look forward to seeing them compete in March!

Sincerely,

Science Olympiad Advisors-
Mrs. Johnson
Mrs. McGowen
Mrs. Roderick

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January 2020
Club News - Continued

MEDIA CLUB

Hello from Media Club!
Media Club meets once a week after school and is a place where students can work on a variety of media-related projects. A few members currently read morning announcements, and the club generates some content for Agawam’s educational public access channel, Channel 12. Media Club advisors are arranging for media club members to travel to the Agawam Senior Center and use the StoryCorps interviewing app to capture the interviews. These interviews will then be aired on the public access channel, animated and edited by members of the club, and shared with the Library of Congress through the app.

We also have students working on:
- drone footage of the outdoor classroom project
- club coverage (students reporting on what AJHS clubs are all about)
- weather reports
- giving the morning announcements over the loudspeaker
- sharing personal photography
- following the "Teaching with Trout" program students are interviewing the new school police officer (Jeff Hichborn) with questions they prepared, and recording the interview using the StoryCorps app, and using a video camera.

FROM THE NURSE

Dear Families,
With flu season upon us, it is important to keep ourselves and our children healthy, and to practice good hygiene both in and out of school. Children are two-to-three times more likely than adults to get sick with the flu, and on average, one in three children in the U.S. is affected by this virus each year. There are several things you can do at home to prevent illness from occurring.

Here are some tips to remember:
- WASH, WASH, WASH YOUR HANDS! This method continues to be the single best defense against illness. Encourage your children to wash their hands using soap and warm water, especially before meals.
- Drink plenty of fluids and eat a well-balanced diet which includes a hearty breakfast. I’ve noticed a lot of students who have headaches and stomachaches due to hunger.
- Avoid sharing drinks/water bottles, eating utensils.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth as germs can easily spread this way.
- Use tissues to block a sneeze or cough and dispose of it immediately into the trash. If no tissues are available, use your sleeve near your elbow.

At home, help to prevent the flu from spreading by disinfecting frequently touched surfaces, toys, and other commonly shared items.

Unfortunately, even with the best care, we can still catch a virus. Symptoms of the flu include high fever, severe headache, muscle/body aches, chills, sore throat, exhaustion, and dry cough. Please keep in mind that the best decision for your child may be to stay home if they have any of the following:
- A fever of 100 degrees or higher. A child should not return to school until they have been fever free for at least 24 hours without medication.
- Any rash accompanied by fever
- Sore throat with a fever
- Ear pain and/or eye drainage
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- A frequent cough

Please contact your primary health care physician at the earliest onset of symptoms for prompt diagnosis and treatment. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to call! For additional information on the influenza virus you can visit www.cdc.gov/flu.

Have a safe and HEALTHY winter!
AJHS School Nurse

January 2020
The Agawam Junior High School Bands started off the year with an exciting performance opportunity for our 8th graders to share the football field with the Agawam High School Marching Band on October 4th. We joined the High School Band on the field for the Pre-Game ceremony as well as in the stands for some fun cheers and stand tunes. We also got to view the Marching Band perform its 2019 Halftime Show. This was a great preview of the fantastic opportunities available for our students when they move on to AHS.

Junior District Concert Band Auditions
We were thrilled to have 4 band members accepted in the 2020 Western Massachusetts Junior District Ensembles

Concert Band:
Nicholas N. - trumpet
Adam W. - Clarinet

Jazz Band:
Coleman B. - trumpet
Noah M. - trombone
On Thursday December 19th The AJHS Band Program presented its first Winter Bands concert at 7:00 pm in the Agawam Junior High School Auditorium. The concert featured the 7th and 8th Grade Concert Bands and the Jazz Band playing a variety of music. The Concert was also televised by Agawam Public Access.

**Upcoming Events:**

**March**
- Jr. District Rehearsal – Saturday 14th (selected students) Belchertown H.S.
- Jr. District Concert – Saturday 21st (selected students) UMass Amherst
- AJHS Bands Music In Our Schools Month Concert - Thursday 26th AJHS Auditorium

**May**
- Band Time Concert (5-12 Bands) – Wednesday 20th @ 7:00 PM, AHS Gymnasium
- Great East Festival Competition (7 and 8 Bands) – Friday 29th @ 8:00 AM AJHS Auditorium

**June**
- Doering Middle School Concert (JHS Jazz) - Wednesday 3rd @ 7:00 PM AJHS Auditorium
- 7th and 8th Grade Band trip to Six Flags New England- Monday 15th

**AJHS Bands Google Site**

Please check out our new Google Site for Band- for students and parents or anyone interested on what we have to offer! Stay current with all of our upcoming events at AJHS BANDS!

[https://sites.google.com/agawamed.org/ajhs-bands/home](https://sites.google.com/agawamed.org/ajhs-bands/home)