



## **ABINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL FRIDAY NEWS**

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

February 11 AMS PTO Meeting @ 6:30 p.m. in the AMS Conference Rm.

February 18 - 22 Winter Vacation

February 25 School Re-Opens

### **MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

Good Afternoon,

This morning Abington Middle School students took part in barricade building practice as part of our ongoing ALICE implementation. Classroom teachers provided a presentation that included a review of ALICE protocols and examples of barricades that the staff had built during recent professional development activities. Following the presentation teachers led the construction of a barricade in every classroom. Teachers immediately reported that the practice session was successful.

After the completion of the practice I asked classroom teachers to send students to the office who were willing to speak with me about the experience. I met with a total of 26 students in grade level groups and asked them to share their experiences and how they felt as they listened to the presentation and constructed a barricade in their classrooms. It is important that we continue to gauge not only the physical effectiveness of the ALICE protocols, but the emotional impact that implementation has on our students and school community. The students spoke positively about their experience this morning and were thoughtful in their responses. Before leaving, I asked each student to provide a statement that I could include as part of the weekly newsletter. I am including those statements here:

### **Grade 5**

- I feel a lot safer about ALICE. It's important to have this drill so that our school is safe.
- I felt safer knowing that people are there for the kids and knowing that we will be safe.
- I realized how many things you could have used to counter a dangerous person.
- My understanding of ALICE was good because my teacher demonstrated to show us everything.

- All of our questions were answered, and the teachers knew most of the answers leading me to believe they had proper-training.
- I feel safer knowing we have a first aid bag in our classroom.
- I also learned we have lots of counter items that can be used to barricade.
- I felt good because I saw more things that I could do to stay safe.
- I feel safe and because I learned a lot of stuff about ALICE training

## **Grade 6**

- Barricade makes me feel:
- Safer
- Protected
- I have enough time to get to safety
- More calm
- A sense of comfort
- Protected
- All in all, the barricade makes me feel like I am safe and have enough time to get to safety.
- When we were doing the ALICE training, I was learning a lot. When we actually started to build the barricade, I was getting to learn the materials that are the best to use in case of an emergency.
- Seeing what the barricade is going to look like when we do it in real life is making me feel safer.
- Making the barricade made me feel safer knowing that my class knows what to do and that we can do all the procedures. Also, knowing that we can do it, we can use the knowledge in other public places if that were to happen.
- I felt safe knowing that we know how to build a barricade and that the school has a plan for emergencies. It felt good knowing that we will know what to do in a real-life emergency.
- Building a barricade made me feel safer. It's better to know how to do it and know all the steps. Going over it with your teacher also makes you feel safer and hearing a teacher's input helps, too.
- Students were confident when building the barricade. When we built it, we all felt safer than we did earlier because now we know how to do it. Also, the teacher helped with people not making it stable.

## **Grade 7**

- I feel way more comfortable with practicing the ALICE training after going over it with my homeroom teacher. There were at least like 12 kids in the back doing nothing and I don't know if they were nervous or scared but we all got through it. The help of the other classmates wasn't there but we still got a decent barricade. In my opinion if we had a belt it would have been a tighter and sturdier lock.
- I feel like the students worked together very well. We also learned a lot. It is reassuring knowing that we have a plan if something like this ever were to happen.
- We did do well making a barricade and we could have done better. But this practice made our vision of a barricade more real.
- I feel that everyone in the school is more aware of the situation and what to do in a situation like this today and for the rest of their lives.
- After the lesson I feel a lot more relaxed and now know that I have a choice in what I can do.

## Grade 8

- I feel like that if there was to be a situation to happen that everyone would be more comfortable and readier. My teacher reminded us that we are a team and if something were to happen in our school, we all needed to be there for one another. We are one school and we have to look out for each other.
- I felt good. I now feel somewhat safer.
- I feel a lot safer for this situation because if this was to be real, I would know what to do and how to do things so I can be safe.
- I felt a lot safer practicing building a barricade. Even though it was a drill I still felt slightly scared and my adrenaline was kicking in.
- This morning I felt very nervous going into this drill. I think that the way it was presented was very nice and comforting. I also think that practicing was very helpful. I hope that we can practice again. I think that we need to be more aware of this topic in general even if it is hard.
- I feel safer now because having done it in a situation where we knew it wasn't happening at that moment, we got to see the steps we could take to keep ourselves safe.
- I think this activity helped a lot with people understanding the seriousness of this type of situation and that it is not something to joke about.

We have great students.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Mr. MacCurtain  
Principal

## KIDS HEART CHALLENGE

Please send in any donations that you have collected for the American Heart Association. **Donations are due by February 14, 2019.**

The grades 5 and 6 basketball tournament will be held on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 and the grades 7 and 8 basketball tournament will be held on Friday, February 8, 2019. Both tournaments will be held **after school** in the middle school gym. The winning teams will play the staff in a student versus staff game during periods 6 and 7 on Friday, February 15, 2019.

Students are working on heart healthy projects and activities during health and PE classes. All students are encouraged to spread awareness about heart disease. Thank you for your support!

## Looking for Yearbook Photo Submissions!

The yearbook club invites students, parents, staff, and community members to submit photos for the yearbook. Some ideas are sporting events, dances and other school events, candid photos at home or school, throwback photos with friends, community events, or anything including students from Abington Middle School. These photos will help bring the yearbook to life! Please make sure the content of your photographs is school appropriate. To submit photos online please email to: [amsyearbookphoto@gmail.com](mailto:amsyearbookphoto@gmail.com). Please include in your email the names of students in the photos, their grades, and what the photos are from (ex. play, dance, football game, etc.) It is that easy! Submit your photos today!

**Spring 2019 MCAS Dates**

**Grade 7**

Session 1 - April 10th ELA

Session 2 - April 11th ELA

**Grade 8**

Session 1 - April 10th ELA

Session 2 - April 11th ELA

**Grade 5**

Session 1 - April 23rd ELA

Session 2 - April 24th ELA

**Grade 6**

Session 1 - April 25th ELA

Session 2 - April 26th ELA

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**Grade 5**

Session 1 - May 2nd MATH

Session 2 - May 3rd MATH

**Grade 6**

Session 1 - May 7th MATH

Session 2 - May 8th MATH

**Grade 7**

Session 1 - May 9th MATH

Session 2 - May 10th MATH

**Grade 8**

Session 1 - May 9th MATH

Session 2 - May 10th MATH

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**Grade 5**

Session 1 - May 14th SCIENCE

Session 2 - May 15th SCIENCE

**Grade 8**

Session 1 - May 16th SCIENCE

Session 2 - May 17th SCIENCE

***Week of May 20th - 24th MAKE-UP***