



Dave Kimball
Principal

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Assistant Principal

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Hello AMS Friends and Families,

The beginnings and ends of certain time periods in our lives hold meaning that only we understand. I am sure that this year will be one of those times. Something tells me that none of us expected the chain of events that have unfolded and brought us to this point. Not even my magic eight ball could have predicted this. It is a reminder that even the best laid plans go awry.

This got me thinking about my uncle's house, where I grew up. At the end of the backyard, where the tall grass reached above my brow, was a landlocked growth of dense forest, a stream, and some swamp land, all enclosed by four blocks of homes. Many days I spent in that forest, playing with friends in an old VW Bug, half rusted and half engulfed by earth. We could never figure out how it got there. In times of drought, the stream that fed the small swamp would grow stagnant, and as warm days persisted, the steam bed would run dry. I would watch as the grass turned from green to yellow - brittle, only to bend and crack with the slightest gusts of wind, inflexible in its form. The stagnant pools became rank, dried up, and eventually everything feeding off them would turn to dust.

Sooner or later, rain would once again kiss the dry earth, and within time, the lush green fields roared back, along with the toad songs and cricket symphonies. An endless rebirth, a constant flux of life. It was remarkable that regardless of consequences there was a resilience in nature that we can all admire and take lessons from.

A few months ago I drove past that old house. The forest, tall grass, and steady stream were all gone. Someone found a way in, and built an entire neighborhood within the once landlocked place my childhood friends and I played, cried, and bled. Some of us might have even driven our cars back there to see if we could get to the old bug...but that's another story. My drive over that newly paved road was a reminder of the impermanence of things. That while my friends and I always talked of our dreams for that land, we never acted upon them. So, like with many things, someone else wrote the script, and they made their vision come to fruition, and there is no turning back now.

We may have not written the script of the last year, but it is ours to own nonetheless. I can't tell you what the next school year will look like, what forests will be standing, or if the tall grass will be green or an inflexible yellow straw. What I can tell you is that in order to keep it all alive until the rains come or the sun sets, we have to have the resilience of nature. The work of educators and students feels impossible at times, but we (students, educators and families) will always be the water that feeds the well.

As we send off our 8th grade students to begin their high school journey, we wish them well on all of their future endeavors. They have left their mark at AMS and we will miss them greatly. As we welcome back our rising 8th graders and our incoming 7th grade students, we are grateful to have the chance to work with you in the coming years.

Thank you to our entire AMS community for helping us “write the script” as we lived it this year and for your endless compassion, curiosity, responsibility and resilience. Have a great summer and we will see you all, in one form or another, in the fall!

Final AMS Art Gallery

[AMS ART GALLERY: June 2020](#)

Yearbooks

For those of you who did not order a yearbook, we have a limited supply for sale. These will be sold on a first come, first serve basis. The cost is \$38 and you can pay with cash or a check made out to Avon Middle School. Please email Barb Luebeck in the main office (bluebeck@avonk.12.ct.us) if you're interested in purchasing one.

Student Material Pick Up

Thank you all for your patience and understanding during a busy few days of material return and pick up! If your student still needs to return any textbooks/library books or pick up their locker contents, please reach out to Barb Luebeck (bluebeck@avon.k12.ct.us) in the main office over the summer to set up an appointment.

Field Trips and Musical reimbursements (Broadway trip, music trips, Musical)

We are in the process of signing off and mailing out the last reimbursement checks. Thank you again for your patience, it is greatly appreciated.

Stay well,

Dave and Kristina

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Previously Distributed Information

Avon Community Supports

Here is a link to some of the [Avon Community Supports](#).

Updated SNAP Benefits information

Students who are receiving free/reduced lunch will qualify for additional funding in SNAP benefits. [Here is the link.](#)