



# AA Transportation Co., Inc.

605 HARTFORD TURNPIKE  
SHREWSBURY, MA 01545

**JULY 2009**

**NEWSLETTER**

**224**

**and**

**218**

**That's  
the number of  
all employees  
who had  
PERFECT  
ATTENDANCE  
in MAY and  
JUNE 2009.**

**Thank You All**

**Perfect  
Attendance  
Awards**

## ***MESSAGE FROM THE TOP***

### **SUMMER SUMMER SUMMER**

It's here, but where is the nice weather? Rain, cold, hail, where's the summer? This is not beach weather.

But we all know that all too soon we will begin another school year. I look forward to seeing all of you at the startup meetings. Most are already scheduled and the lists appear below. Contact your Manager for additional information.

Keep safe, and once again thank you for all your good work over the past school year. See all of you in about a month.

Remember to send me your comments and ideas about our company and what we do for our customers. Your views are important to me, and I will respond to every comment and idea I receive.

**Ron Ernenwein, President**

## Drawing

**WINNERS**  
in the drawing,  
each for a  
**\$250**  
**Wal-Mart Gift**  
**Card**

### MAY

**OSCAR AMPARO**  
**SPED MAIN OFFICE**

**KEN DUFRESNE**  
**LAKE STREET**

### JUNE

**PAUL LAMONTAGNE**  
**LAKE STREET**

**JODIE JOHNSON**  
**CHERRY STREET**

In addition to the MONTHLY drawing for the \$250 GIFT CARDS, every employee with Perfect Attendance for the Month gets an individual monthly award too.

**ANNUAL**  
**PERFECT**  
**ATTENDANCE**  
**for the**  
**2008-2009**  
**SCHOOL YEAR**



**Printed in the Worcester Telegram, June 22, 2009**

**On the job: Jacqueline E. Dunbar, School bus driver, AA Transportation, Shrewsbury**

School bus driver Jacqueline E. Dunbar, shown above in the AA Transportation yard in Shrewsbury, says her least favorite part of the job is driving in snow. (T&G Staff / PAUL KAPTEYN)

*Why are school buses yellow?*

"Hopefully, so that people driving around can see us."

*It seems like fewer children are taking the bus now than when we were young. Would you agree?*

"Shrewsbury is more populated now, so I think more students are taking the bus. Nowadays we drop kids off door to door because there isn't a sidewalk or proper walkway for the child to get to the bus stop safely. A lot of streets in Shrewsbury are very narrow and don't have sidewalks."

*Once in a while you read a story in the paper about a child who didn't get off the bus - the driver didn't spot-check when they got back to base and so the child sits on the bus all day. Do drivers check the bus*

**THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR GOOD AND  
RELIABLE WORK!**

**AUBURN**

Berthiaume, Elaine

*front to back when they finish a run?*

"Without a doubt. After every single run, not just when you get back to base, you check your bus for students."

*What is your favorite part of the job?*

"The kids, especially the little ones. They're so adorable. They lose their teeth at that age and they get so excited and they're showing everybody. Some are almost toothless, smiling big. They ask me a lot of questions like, 'What's that light for?' They're cute."

*I would have guessed that your favorite part of the job is when they cancel school.*

"I watch the news the night before and I'm like a kid watching to see if school is closed. Who else wakes up in the morning to see if they have to go to work or not? It's funny, my mom laughs. But then it's like: Ugh, an extra day in the summer."

*What is your least favorite part of the job?*

"Driving in the snow."

*Don't those buses have good traction?*

"No. People think that because they're so big and heavy that they do well, but they don't. I think years ago they used to put chains on the wheels, but they're not four-wheel drive. They have some traction, but you can get stuck in very simple situations, like steep hills. There are a lot of steep hills in Shrewsbury."

*What grades do you pick up and drop off?*

"K through 12. There are numerous runs per day. I get up at 4:30 every morning. The first group are the high school kids, which I begin picking up at 6:36 a.m. I drop them off at the high school at 7:05. At 7:20 I pick up the middle school kids and drop them off at 8. I then pick up the kids in Grades 1 to 4 at 8:15, and drop them off at the elementary school at 8:40. I then go back to base and then I pick up the kindergartners at school at 11:30."

*There is a new no-idling law in Massachusetts, which prevents school buses from running their engines in front of school. What rules do you have to follow?*

"If we are loading or unloading children and we are sitting in front of the building for more than 5 minutes, then the engine has to be off."

*What about the dead of winter?*

**LAKE STREET**

Dunbar, Andrew  
Sears, Alden  
Tighe, Patricia  
Waite, Debbie

**SPED - MAIN  
OFFICE**

Brigham, Amanda  
Burns, Craig  
Clark, Burton  
Collins, Marie  
Dobbs, Robert  
Fish, Shane  
Gardner, Debby  
Howe, Judy  
LaPointe, Andrea

**CHERRY STREET**

Barbieri, Jean  
Blanco, Jose  
Carroll, Ellie  
Ciesluk, Mike  
Fior, Gail  
Franceschi, Alex

Hogan, Bill  
Kharashqah, Aretha  
LeBlanc, Marcia  
Maldonado, Mimi  
Mosher, Kim  
Rossi, Jenn  
Vazquez, Hector

### **SOUTHBRIDGE**

Alicea, Jose  
Chenevert, Margaret  
Duggan, Dorothy  
Gregory, Red  
Hensley, Bonnie  
Julian, Robert  
Lahey, Anita  
Leighton, Amy  
Parks, Helena  
Paulhus, Roland  
Zuidema, Susan

### **WEBSTER**

Boisvert, Lori  
Chenevert, Jan  
Christienson, Joan  
Milosh, Bill  
Milosh, David  
Reil, Kathy  
Tankis, Vicki  
Trahan, Sheila

Jackets are on order

"Same thing. Yeah, it's cold, especially this past winter."

*How many verses to "The Wheels on the Bus" do you know?*

"The little ones learn it at school, then they sing it on the bus. Naturally they want me to sing along with them."

Compiled by correspondent Richard Price.

## **AA Transportation's Biggest Loser Team Challenge**

**WE HAVE WINNERS!**

**TEAM WINNER - LAKE STREET**

**INDIVIDUAL WINNER  
TESSA DUBOIS**

**-216**

**This is the total number of pounds lost by all Team  
Members.**

The FINAL WEIGH-IN told the tale.

### **TEAM CHALLENGE**

Lake Street LOST 91 Pounds - 2.749%

Webster LOST 47 Pounds - 2.642%

Home Office LOST 60 Pounds - 1.822%

Corporate LOST 18 Pounds - 0.643%

### **INDIVIDUAL CHALLENGE**

**Tessa Dubois LOST**

**30 Pounds - 18.519%**

for everyone listed above, which will be presented later in this year.

**IN-SERVICE MONTHLY TRAINING & SAFETY MEETING SCHEDULE**

***STARTING  
SEPTEMBER  
2009 - ALL  
MEETINGS  
WILL BE ON  
TUESDAY***

**1st WEDNESDAY  
EACH MONTH AT MAIN  
OFFICE 2nd FLOOR - 8 :30  
AM, 9:45 AM, AND 6:00  
PM**

**2nd WEDNESDAY  
EACH MONTH AT MAIN  
OFFICE 2nd FLOOR - 9:30  
AM**

**3rd TUESDAY EACH  
MONTH AT WEBSTER,  
BARTLETT HIGH SCHOOL  
AUDITORIUM - 9:15 AM**

**4th TUESDAY EACH  
MONTH AT  
SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN  
HALL 2nd FLOOR - 9:00  
AM**

**2009-2010 SCHOOL  
YEAR START-UP  
MEETINGS WILL BE**

**Judy Bricault LOST  
20 Pounds - 10.811%**

**Gary Capezzuto LOST  
35 Pounds - 9.459%**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL PARTICIPANTS FOR  
STICKING WITH THIS FUN EVENT!**

**CONGRATULATIONS**

***ISMAEL CARRASQUILLO***

Received from Longfellow Children's Center by telephone:

I just want to say thank you for such a great year. We really appreciated everything Ismael did.

Thanks,  
Jessica Neguch, Director

***AA LIMOUSINE  
and FRED KALMOWITZ***

Received by US Mail June 15, 2009

**To everyone at AA Limousine Service,**

**In April our son Joseph - Joe - finished two years of treatment for leukemia. To celebrate, Joseph was treated to an afternoon at Fenway Park with (luxurious!) transportation provided by you.**

**We want to thank you for giving Joseph such a generous gift - the trip to Fenway in the limousine was so fun and relaxing! Fred the driver was fantastic!**

## **ANNOUNCED WHEN**

### **SCHEDULE IS AVAILABLE**

**Your kindness really helped make Joseph's afternoon at Fenway a once-in-a-lifetime experience!**

**"ALL THINGS  
ARE  
DIFFICULT  
BEFORE THEY  
ARE EASY."**

**Please know that our family is really touched by your generosity!**

**Kristy, Larry, Catherine & Joseph Miceli**

## **RENEWAL REMINDER**

**THE FOLLOWING CDL  
DRIVERS ARE DUE FOR  
LICENSE RENEWAL**

### **AUGUST RENEWALS**

#### **Webster/Southbridge & Auburn**

Elaine Berthiaume,  
Carrold Gregory,  
Laura Horanzy

#### **Lake Street**

Patrick Cullen

#### **Cherry Street**

Jose Blanco,  
Eugene Boakye,  
Christopher Campbell,  
Sulma Carreno,  
Brett Cheney,  
Micheal Ciesluk,  
Patricia Duran,  
Ron Ernenwein,  
Mary Lee Frederickson,  
Matthew Hennessey,  
Cheryle Lapierre,  
David Mahoney,  
Kathy McFarlin

## **AA TRANSPORTATION RECIPE BOOK**

We got a few more recipes in. It's not too late to be included in our AA Transportation Cook Book. So send me your favorite recipes. Any kind of dish will do: main course, dessert, snack, beverage, anything.

We will distribute the AA Transportation Cook Book to all employees at the Thanksgiving Holiday Employee Party. It is free to everyone, so how about sharing your favorites.

Each employee sending in a recipe will be recognized for their contribution. Recipes can be for any kind of dish. Be sure to provide the list of ingredients, preparation, cooking and serving instructions. The number of servings per recipe would also be helpful.

Send all your recipes to the Main Office, Attention Jim. Just write them out, drop off on my desk, or email me. The recipes received will be grouped together by type and then put into book form. Our target is to have our Cook Book ready give out to employees at the Thanksgiving Holiday Employee Party in November.

Any questions or ideas please see Jim.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES, TRAINING & SAFETY**

**Julie D'Ambra, Director**

**508-791-9100 ext 4**

## **SEPTEMBER** **RENEWALS**

### **Webster/Southbridge** **& Auburn**

Paul Cusson,  
Donald Johnson,  
Melissa Luciano,  
Jeffery Parker,  
Brendalee Weeks

#### **Lake Street**

Paul Lamontagne,  
Sean Lyonnais,  
Robin Murphy,  
Tara Roche

#### **Cherry Street**

Jean Kuindersma,  
William McGourty,  
Kathy Jo Milner,  
Kimberly Mosher,  
Cynthia Ramsey,  
Crystal Rider,  
Patricia Smith

## **OCTOBER** **RENEWALS**

### **Webster/Southbridge &** **Auburn**

Lauri Boucher,  
Patricia Camosse,  
William Kingston,  
Paula Jean Morse,  
Nancy Nelson,  
Pamela Robichaud,  
Robin Seymour,  
Shirley Wagner

#### **Lake Street**

Sandra Babin,  
Tessa Dubois

#### **Cherry Street**

Linda Amatucci,  
Oscar Amparo,  
Karen Berger,  
Rose Coates,  
Shane Flannery,

**Just a few reminders:**

**CHECK ON THE START-UP MEETING SCHEDULE FOR YOUR SCHOOL AND CONTRACT. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ATTEND THIS MEETING. MANY THINGS ALWAYS CHANGE, AND THIS IS WHERE YOU GET THE CORRECT INFORMATION.**

**DRIVE AND PLAY SAFE DURING THE SUMMER.**

### **CHERRY STREET YARD**

Abby Kelley, Grafton, METCO, Sutton, AMSA, St. John's, SPM, Fay, Assabet, Charters

**Rita Ernenwein, Manager**

**508-791-9100 ext 2**

## **STARTUP MEETINGS**

Monday, Aug 10th 9:00am Assabet, AMSA, Fay, HN/SPM, St John's

Tuesday, Aug 11th 9:00am Abby Kelley

Tuesday, Aug 18th 9:00am Charter Drivers

Tuesday, Aug 18th Noon Sutton

Thursday, Aug 20th Noon METCO

Monday, Aug 24th 1:00pm Grafton

Routes, school calendars and buses should be available for pick-up after the meetings.

All Meetings will be held at the Main Office, 2nd Floor Conference Room.

Terry Harmon,  
James Keller,  
Muriel White

Contact your Manager with your renewal information at least 30 days prior to your renewal date, to avoid losing your driving privileges while waiting for your renewal license.

**“PURSUE YOUR WISHES AGGRESSIVELY.”**

## **FLEET MAINTENANCE**

John Hartman,  
Manager  
508-845-7216

**PARK-OUTS – CHECK YOUR BUS BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS!** If you need any repairs call the Garage and let me know the problem. We will set you up to bring your bus in for repairs.

The direct telephone line to the Garage is: 508-845-7216.

Always drive safe, always.

## **AA LIMOUSINE SERVICE**

John Pond, Manager  
508-791-9100 ext 1

Reminder: All drivers are required to work a minimum of 10 days over the summer break.

If you are a park out and your assigned bus needs service of any type (oil change, seat repairs, radio adjustment, etc.), NOW is a great time to bring it in. Call the Garage: 508-845-7216

### **NOTE from Rita:**

As drivers, we all know that at times traffic is not at its best, but AA Transportation employees must remember to be professional and courteous at all times to the customer and other drivers. We want to set an example for everyone, to show how wonderful we are.

Don't forget to sign-up for Fall Charter Work starting September 1 to December 31.

## **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**

### **Abby Kelley Elementary**

Monday, Aug 24th Grades 1 - 4 (Full Day)

Aug 24 - Aug 28 ½ day **K-ONLY**

### **Abby Kelley MS & HS**

Monday, Aug 24th Grades 5 & 9

Tuesday, Aug 25th ALL Students

### **AMSA**

Monday, Aug 31st Grades 6, 9 & New Students

Tuesday, Sept 1st ALL Students

### **Assabet**

Thursday, Aug 27th Grade 9

Friday, Aug 28th Grade 9

Monday, Aug 31st, All Students

### **Fay**

Wednesday, Sept 9th ALL Students

# **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

## **3rd ANNUAL BOSTON HARBOR CRUISE**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR  
FOR **SUNDAY,**  
**AUGUST 9th** FOR  
THIS FUN EMPLOYEE  
EVENT.

**6:00pm TO 9:00pm**  
**BUS leaves 146 Park &  
Ride at 4:30pm SHARP!**

**\$35** PER PERSON  
INCLUDES  
TRANSPORTATION TO  
AND FROM BOSTON, THE  
CRUISE, FOOD, AND  
ENTERTAINMENT.

## **FOXWOODS CASINO & RESORT CONCERTS**

**AUGUST 16**

**BODIES REVEALED &  
LEGENDS  
CONCERT PACKAGE**

### **Grafton**

Monday, Aug 31st Grades K -6 & 9  
Tuesday, Sept 1st Grades 7, 8 & 10 -12  
Wednesday, Sept 2nd All Students

### **Holy Name**

Wednesday, Sept 2nd Grades 7 & 8  
Thursday, Sept 3rd Grade 9  
Friday, Sept 4 All Students

### **METCO - Lexington**

Monday, Aug 31st Grades K-5, 6 & New Students (1/2 day)  
Monday, Aug 31st Grade 9 (full day)  
Tuesday, Sept 1st Grades 7, 8, 10, 11 & 12

### **METCO - Natick**

Wednesday, Sept 2nd Grades K - 12

### **St Peter-Marian**

Wednesday, Sept 2nd Grades 7, 8 & 9  
Thursday, Sept 3rd All Students

### **St John's**

Wednesday, Sept 2nd Grade 9  
Thursday, Sept 3rd Grade 9  
Friday, Sept 4th All Students

### **Sutton**

Wednesday, Aug 26 All Students

### **LAKE STREET YARD**

Shrewsbury, Elm Park, Rainbow

**Sean Lyonnais, Manager**

**508-753-6322**

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer vacation so far! As always, it will go by fast. I am looking forward to seeing everyone back for the 2009-2010 school year.

**\$55**

**Includes 1 ticket to both concerts, plus Casino package.**

**BODIES REVEALED OR LEGENDS CONCERT PACKAGE**

**\$40**

**Includes 1 ticket to either concert, plus Casino package.**

**CASINO ONLY PACKAGE**

**\$25**

**All packages include ACT Bus transportation, \$10 Buffet Coupon, \$15 Keno bet, 1 entry for King or Dream package drawing.**

**ACT Bus departs 146 Park & Ride Lot in Worcester at 9:00 am. Return trip departs Foxwoods at 7:00PM.**

**RHINEBECK  
AERODROME  
MUSEUM**

**SEPTEMBER 27**

**Aerodrome features aeroplanes, automobiles and motorcycles from 1900-1935**

**We have scheduled the start up meeting on Monday, August 17th upstairs at the Main Office at 10 am.** We will call everyone a week before the meeting as a reminder. It is very important that you attend. If you have questions, please contact the office.

Again, Congratulations to everyone that participated in the biggest loser. For all the employees that finished the competition for Lake Street, you and one guest are invited for a trip from AA Transportation to Foxwoods. I have reserved the trip for August 7, 2009. The bus will arrive at the Lake Street location at 5:45pm and depart at 6:00pm. Once we arrive at Foxwoods, you will be handed a comp package. With having this comp package, we have to be there for a minimum of 5 hours. The bus will arrive at the loading gate to pick us up at 12:15pm and depart at 12:30am. We will arrive back at Lake Street by 2:00am. Please respond ASAP. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

**Important Dates to Remember:**

**August 7 - Biggest Loser Trip to Foxwoods**

**August 17 - Shrewsbury Start Up Meeting at 10am at the Main Office**

**September 1 - Shrewsbury Public Schools Return / Full Day**

**September 1 - Al-Hamra Academy Return / Full Day**

**September 2 - St. Mary's School Return / Full Day**

**WEBSTER OFFICE**

**Webster, Southbridge, Auburn**

**Linda Perno, Manager**

**508-943-0482**

***A few dates to remember:***

**August 12 - **Auburn** Start-up meeting, 9:00am at Auburn School Department, 5 West Street, Auburn**

**August 12 - **Webster** Start-up meeting, 12:00 Noon at the Filmer Building (Webster Public School Department), Conference Room, 41 East Main Street,**

**\$35** PER PERSON

Includes Admission to 4 Museum Buildings and Air Show Ticket and ACT Bus Transportation.

ACT Bus departs 146 Park & Ride Lot in Worcester at 7:00 am. Return trip departs Rhinebeck, NY at 5:00PM.

Limited to first 44 who purchase tickets

**NEW YORK**  
**CITY DAY**  
**BUS TRIPS**

OCTOBER 11th and NOVEMBER 27th

**\$25** PER PERSON

**DEPARTS 8:00 AM**  
**RETURNS FROM NYC**  
**8:00 PM**

**HOLIDAY**  
**SHOPPING**  
**TRIP TO**

Webster

**August 13 - Southbridge Start-up meeting, 9:00 am at Southbridge Town Hall, 41 Elm Street, Southbridge**

Mark your calendars for the meeting that pertains to your route. **All CDL Drivers need to attend the start-up meeting for their contract route.** Lots of pertinent information is given at these meetings for the upcoming 2009/2010 school year.

As usual the summer months fly by fast, so enjoy the days you can and don't forget that sunscreen!

**SPED - Cherry Street**  
**Cindy Fish, Manager**  
**508-791-9100 ext 2**

**SPED Startup Meeting is Wednesday, August 19th at 10:00am for all Drivers and Monitors. Meeting is at the Main Office, 2nd Floor Conference Room.**

**WE HAVE HAD THREE BROKEN HOSES AT THE FUEL PUMPS IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS. PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING:**

**HOW TO USE FUEL PUMPS - IN CASE DINO IS NOT AVAILABLE**

READ AND FOLLOW DIRECTIONS ON PUMP DISPLAY

1. INSERT FUEL KEY AND TURN TO RIGHT (FUEL KEY IS IN GARAGE IF NOT ON THE PUMPS)
2. KEY IN VEHICLE CODE # (A=1; C=3; V=8) FOR EXAMPLE: SCHOOL BUS A103 = 1103; CAR C22 = 322; VAN V71 = 871
3. KEY IN PUMP # - 1, 2, 3, 4 (NUMBER IS ON FRONT OF PUMP) 1 & 2 ARE FOR DIESEL FUEL & 3 AND 4 ARE FOR GASOLINE
4. REMOVE FUEL KEY
5. REMOVE FUEL NOZZLE AND TURN PUMP HANDLE

**FREEPORT,  
MAINE**

**L. L. BEAN &  
OUTLET  
STORES**

**DECEMBER 5th**

**MORE DETAILS TO  
FOLLOW**

**CONTACT JOHN  
POND AT 508-791-  
9100 ext 1, IF  
INTERESTED IN  
ANY EVENT, TRIP OR  
PACKAGE.**

**AA Transportation is  
on the Web**

Click Here:

[www.aatransportation.com](http://www.aatransportation.com)

**CALL or FAX US  
508-791-9100  
508-845-7215 FAX**

**“IT MAY BE  
THOSE WHO  
DO MOST,  
DREAM  
MOST.”**

TO START PUMP

6. WHEN FINISHED FUELING, TURN OFF PUMP AND RETURN NOZZLE TO HOLDER.
7. PLACE HOSE ON FUEL ISLAND.
8. YOU ARE DONE.

**REMINDERS:**

- NO SMOKING AROUND FUEL ISLAND
- DO NOT LEAVE YOUR VEHICLE RUNNING WHILE FUELING
- DO NOT LEAVE FUEL PUMP UNATTENDED WHEN FUELING
- USE COMPANY FUEL PUMPS WHEN OFFICE IS OPEN