

January 2009

NEWSLETTER



AA Transportaton Co., Inc.

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MESSAGE FROM THE TOP

WELCOME BACK AND HAPPY 2009

I'm happy to see everyone returned safely after the Holiday Break. Our weather has not been cooperating, but all of you are working hard to operate our vehicles safely. Hopefully the bad weather will last only a short time, and we can all get back to normal operations. Thank you for paying extra attention to picking up your students, waiting to make sure all are safely on-board your vehicle, and safely getting everyone home after school is out.

Ron Ernenwein, President

AA Transportation Biggest Loser - Team Challenge

A friendly team challenge is announced, to see which team can lose the most weight. The challenge begins with a weigh-in of each team on Monday, January 19, 2009 at the Main Office, and ends on Friday, June 12, 2009 with a final weigh-in of each team. The team with the largest percentage loss will determine the winner. The winning team will be announced at the Wright's Chicken Farm Employee Event on Saturday, June 13, 2009. The prize for the winning team members will be announced before the January 19th weigh-in.

There will be 4 teams, each will represent the four major parts of the AA Transportation Family: 1 - Corporate Office (includes corporate management and office personnel, Main Office SPED Operations [management, drivers and monitors], Fleet Maintenance personnel, Limo Operations [management, office, and drivers], and Trucking personnel);

2 - Cherry Street Operations (includes management, office, drivers and monitors); 3 - Lake Street Operations (includes management, office, drivers and monitors); and 4 - Webster Operations (includes management, office, drivers and monitors). All employees from each of the four major parts of the Company can participate, but each team member MUST participate for the entire challenge time period.

Each location Manager shall post a sign-up list for those employees wishing to participate in the team challenge for their location. The Human Resources Director will keep all the records for the team challenge.

On January 19, 2009 each team will come to the Main Office for the first weigh-in and the total weight of the team members will be the starting weight for each team. The percentage weight loss will be calculated by dividing the total weight lost (difference of first weigh-in total less next weigh-in total) by the total starting weight from the first weigh-in of all team members. The team with the highest overall percentage of team weight loss will be the winner.

Each team will also weigh-in on Monday, February 16, 2009; Monday, March 16, 2009; Monday, April 20, 2009; Monday, May 18, 2009; and the final weigh-in will be on Friday, June 12, 2009. All team participants shall wear pajama pants, tee shirt and socks, or equivalent for each weigh-in. Shoes will not be worn at weigh-ins. Weigh-in locations to be announced. The same scale will be used for all weigh-ins.

The first and last weigh-in is important and required. If someone does not weigh-in on January 19th, they cannot be part of a team. The first weigh-in is at the Main Office to establish the base weight of each team using the same scale for all participants, and to accurately record all weigh-in numbers. The first weigh-in shall be conducted all day, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. In addition, each participant will sign-off on their weigh-in numbers, at each weigh-in, to verify the numbers are accurate. To be fair, if someone does not weigh-in at the last weigh-in in June, their numbers are removed from the team numbers because they did not complete the challenge. Location for the monthly and final weigh-in will be announced the week before each weigh-in date.

The individual monthly weigh-in is NOT required, but recommended to show team progress, which will be reported in the monthly newsletter.

Progress of the challenge will be listed in the monthly AA Transportation Newsletter. Any questions, contact the Human Resources Director.

Human Resources, Safety & Training

Julie D'Ambra, Director

508-791-9100 ext 3

Welcome back. I hope you all enjoyed your short vacation. I have several keys to remind

you about:

Please clear as much snow off of your vehicle as possible. We are all held liable when snow falls from the roof of our vehicle and hits someone's car or someone period. Not to mention someone could be seriously hurt or even killed by the snow. For those of us who can, stand on the interior seats and open a roof hatch, then brush the snow off with a broom or snow brush with an extension handle. For those of us who can't, please ask someone to help you.

This month, our driver, Denise Foley, was seriously injured when snow from a car hit her bus windshield, which pushed the windshield and the snow crashing into Denise's face and chest. We wish Denise a speedy recovery.

Remember that the winter months always have a high rate of accidents. Let's try and be aware of where we are going and at what speed. Just because the road you are coming from is clear of snow and ice does not mean the next street was plowed as well. Keep your speed to a minimum. The roads are narrow. If you had to pull to the far right, you would need to be able to stop.

Lastly, many of you are missing a significant amount of in-service hours. Make sure that you call Terry Costa long before you need to renew. She will tell you how you can make up your missing hours.

Every decision you make creates a reward or a penalty. What would you prefer? The choice is yours!

From the Cherry Street Office (Abbey Kelley, AMSA, Grafton, METCO, Sutton, St. Johns, SPM, and Charters)

Rita Ernenwein, Manager

508-791-9100 ext 2

During these very cold days, 'Park-Outs' should start their buses early enough to get help if their bus does not start. Call the office immediately if you have a problem.

If you are having problems with heat on your bus, contact the Garage to get needed repairs. Diesel engines take a lot longer to heat up in the cold weather. Another reason to

start your bus early.

Good Luck to all members of the Cherry Street Biggest Loser Team Challenge.

Recipe of the Month: - Garden Vegetable Soup-Serves 4

2/3 cup sliced carrot

1/2 cup diced onion

1/2 cup green beans

1 Tbsp tomato paste

2 minced garlic cloves

1/2 tsp dried basil

3 cups fat-free broth (beef, chicken or vegetable)

1/4 tsp dried oregano

1/4 tsp salt

1 1/2 cups diced green cabbage

1/2 cup diced zucchini

Spray a large saucepan with nonstick spray, heat. Saute the carrot, onion, and garlic over low heat until softened, about 5 minutes. Add broth, cabbage, beans, tomato paste, basil, oregano, and salt; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, covered, about 15 minutes or until beans are tender. Stir in the zucchini and heat for 3-4 minutes. Serve hot.

From the Lake Street Office (Shrewsbury, Rainbow, Elm Park, Webster Square Day Care)

Sean Lyonnais, Manager

508-753-6322

Kerry and I would like to say "Thank You" to everyone for a great first half of the 2008/2009 school year. The Shrewsbury School Department and all the Day Care contracts are very pleased with the service that we are providing. Keep up the great work!

Just a couple of reminders:

Please make sure that your timesheet is filled out correctly with your times and mileage. If your timesheet does not have your mileage written on it, it will be returned to you. I need this information for many reports that I have to prepare. Also, I would like your pre-trip slips turned into the repair bucket even if you don't need any repairs to your bus.

Also, I am working very hard with the Shrewsbury School Department on making sure that

all routes are as accurate as possible so we can start making routes for 2009/2010. Please remember to update your route with all times in the morning and the actual times you leave the schools in the afternoon for complete accuracy of bus stop times. This will help us let the parents know exactly what time you will be arriving at the stop. Our goal is to have the routes complete by the last day of school. This can only happen with your cooperation in updating your route so it is exact. Please see Kerry or me with all your changes that we have not made in the computer system.

I would like to welcome Emmanuel Asante, Paul Moisan, Jose Torres, and Melissa Quinones to the Lake Street Division. I would also like to welcome Tracey Snow from the Main Office.

I would like to say "Good Luck" to everyone participating in "The Biggest Loser Team Challenge."

Important Dates:

January 19th - No School for Shrewsbury, Rainbow, Webster Square, Elm Park

January 20th - No School for Shrewsbury Public School, Al-Hamra, and Montessori Only. There is transportation for St. Mary's, St. John's, and all Day Cares

February 6th - Half day for Al-Hamra ONLY

February 16th - February 20 - No School in Shrewsbury
There is transportation for all Day Cares this week.

February 27th - No School for St. Mary's and Montessori ONLY

From the Webster Office (Auburn, Southbridge & Webster)

Linda Perno, Manager

508-943-0482

Quote of the Month:

"Class - *Genuine good taste consists in saying much in few words, in choosing among our thoughts, in having order and arrangement in what we say, and in speaking with composure."*

I would like to wish everyone a safe & happy New Year in 2009.

As always, a few reminders:

There is a drop off and suggestion box located outside the Webster Office door for any

correspondence or anonymous/signed suggestions to me or the company.

2 way radios = emergency/office use

Personal car parking has improved greatly. I just want to remind everyone to be considerate of each other's vehicle when backing and open and closing doors.

*Pre-trip books = must be filled out/in in its entirety and removed from the book daily, any repairs needed should be reported to the office to schedule in the vehicle. All items are to be checked and signed off on. At the end of each day you should leave your book open to that day on your driver's seat so when the yardman arrives each morning to start each bus he can check for any repairs needed.

All buses should be pre-tripped and clean of all debris, as if we were scheduled to have bus inspection, on a daily basis.

Also, when parking and exiting your bus anywhere other than the bus lot, you need to have your wheels properly chocked and a bus empty sign placed in the window.

Anyone can drive a car, but it takes someone VERY SPECIAL to drive a School bus!

Thank You!

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

News from SPEDLAND

I would like to personally wish everyone a Happy New Year!

Congratulations to Drivers Dave Mahoney - 7D Natick Late Run and Maria Hernandez - 7D Weekend Route; and Judy Howe - Weekend Route Monitor. All were extras who now have assigned work.

A couple things I want to review:

If you don't pick up a student in the morning, you still must attempt to pick up that student from the school. (Unless you get a call from parent)

Any maintenance issues call the garage directly (508-845-7216)

If you park your vehicle out during the winter:

- § Make sure you shovel out your vehicle
- § Clear ice and snow from windows
- § Start your vehicle at least once every other day
- § Check fluids regularly at each fill up when low
- § Bring vehicle to main office when it's not working right

o During warmer months:

- § Keep vehicle clean (inside and out)
- § Check fluids regularly at each fill up

If you park in the yard:

- o Back vehicle in behind garage (check with office where to leave keys)
- o Fill gas tank before parking
- o Pick up trash and vacuum inside

If your student cancels, please call and see if there is some other work you could help out with.

REMINDER FOR ALL PASSENGERS IN A COMPANY VEHICLE SEATBELTS MUST BE WORN

Limousine Operations

John Pond, Manager

508-791-9100 ext 1

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

2009 BOSTON RED SOX TRIPS

\$250 PER PERSON PER TRIP

**JUNE 13 to 14, 2009 vs Philadelphia
in Philadelphia, PA**

**AUGUST 1 to 2, 2009 vs Baltimore
in Baltimore, MD**

**SEPTEMBER 19 to 20, 2009 vs Baltimore
in Baltimore, MD**

**\$75.00 Non-Refundable Deposit
Guarantees Your Seat
More Details to Follow**

**Contact John at 508-791-9100 ext 1. to take advantage
of any of these Events.**

Open to All Employees and Friends.

Fleet Maintenance

John Hartman, Manager

508-845-7216

Now that the weather is really cold, park-out drivers should start their vehicles very early to make sure they can get a replacement vehicle if they have starting problems.

Come to the Garage and we will train you on how to start your vehicle in cold weather.

Registry of Motor Vehicle Inspections are here again. Make sure your Pre-Trip book is up-to-date. If you need repairs, call or come to the Garage or tell your Manager.

Perfect Attendance Awards

226 EMPLOYEES

**HAD PERFECT ATTENDANCE
IN DECEMBER**

**DRAWING WINNERS
\$250 WAL-MART GIFTCARD EACH**

**ANN BIBEAU
WEBSTER**

DAWN SNOW

WEBSTER

THANK YOU TO ALL EMPLOYEES WHO CONTINUE TO HAVE PERFECT ATTENDANCE.

School Bus License Renewals

THE FOLLOWING CDL DRIVERS ARE DUE FOR LICENSE RENEWAL

FEBRUARY RENEWALS

Webster/Southbridge/Auburn

Daniel Daly, Laurent McDonald

Debra McGrath, Vicki Tankis

Lake Street

Stacey Clarke, Walberto Jimenez

Dawn Lane, Janet Racicot

Cherry Street

Patrice Delyon, Kori Lee Dennison, Evan Dumas

Alexander Franceschi, Matthew Haddad

William Hogan, Kristin Keller, Pamela Konan

Cindy Lafrance, Donat Luvuki, Paula MacConnell

Terry Therrien

MARCH RENEWALS

Webster/Southbridge/Auburn

Gary Capezzuto, Donna Fontaine, Lisa Tessier

Lake Street

Sheila Falcone, Gail Flynn, Peter McCabe

Suzanne Panarelli, Boomisudha Potheri

Cherry Street

Judy Bricault, David LaFleur, Frederick Lewis

Ana Lopez, Blanca Lugo, Sharon Maynard

Theresa Sullivan, Ronald White

APRIL RENEWALS

Webster/Southbridge/Auburn

Margaret Chenevert, Laura Corriveau

Sherry Jovan, Marcel Langlois, Roland Paulhus

Lake Street

Roberto DeJesus, Paul Moisan

Cherry Street

Roy Blanchard, Monique Desrosiers

Cynthia Fish, Pancianita Robles

AA TRANSPORTATION WILL CONTINUE TO OFFER COMPANY PHYSICALS EACH MONTH. SEE YOUR MANAGER TO SIGNUP IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE.

SCHOOL BUS LICENSE RENEWAL CAN BE COMPLETED UP TO 3 MONTHS OR 90 DAYS BEFORE YOUR RENEWAL DATE.

Contact your Manager with your renewal information at least 60 days prior to your renewal date to avoid losing your driving privileges while waiting for your renewal license.

Check It Out

NOW ON THE WEB AT: www.aatransportation.com

PAST AA TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTERS

JUST CLICK-ON THE 'NEWSLETTERS' LINK ON THE LEFT SIDE OF OUR HOME PAGE. ALSO TAKE TIME TO LOOK AT ALL THE OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO ALL WHO COME TO OUR WEBSITE.