



AA Transportation Co., Inc.

605 HARTFORD TURNPIKE
SHREWSBURY, MA 01545

SEPTEMBER 2009

NEWSLETTER

IN-SERVICE MONTHLY TRAINING & SAFETY MEETING SCHEDULE

***ALL
MEETINGS
WILL BE ON
TUESDAY***

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

**2nd TUESDAY 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 - 9:30
AM**

MESSAGE FROM THE TOP

WELCOME BACK

I was happy to see everyone returning for their school route. It is always nice to see familiar faces and our good drivers ready to serve each school district that we contract with.

Another great start up!!! This year was extremely smooth, best I can remember.... THANK YOU!!!

I have been out to a few schools with Dunkin Donuts Gift cards as a token of my appreciation for a job well done. Due to being extremely busy the past few weeks I haven't made it to see everyone, but I will!!

While the job seems to be the same, each year brings new challenges. Some schools raise the cost of their 'bus pass' to parents, or implement a 'bus pass' charge for the first time where riding was free in the past. Some parents seem to want more individualized service. All of the schools are always looking for ways to reduce their costs to meet budget demands.

We continue to be able to meet most of these challenges, while improving employment benefits to all employees.

Your job is still the same. Drive safely. Be on time. Treat everyone you come in contact with (customers, passengers on your bus, school

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

administrations, parents, fellow employees, and our management and staff) with a positive attitude and respect.

I appreciate the professionalism each of you has displayed in the past, and believe you will continue to do the same in the coming year. All of us working together make each company stronger and better.

We have a number of new faces too. Let's make them all welcome. Share your experience; help our new drivers to be as good as you are. I want to see everyone succeed.

Let's have a great school year.

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

USING CELL PHONES

WE HAVE BEEN RECEIVING AN INCREASING NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS FROM SCHOOLS, PARENTS, AND CITIZENS OF DRIVERS TALKING ON THEIR CELL PHONE WHEN DRIVING.

WHETHER DRIVING OR STOPPED AT A TRAFFIC LIGHT, OR PARKED WAITING TO LOAD PASSENGERS, IF YOU ARE IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT, PEOPLE PERCEIVE YOU TALKING WHEN DRIVING, WHICH IS AGAINST THE LAW.

SOME SCHOOL OFFICES HAVE ASKED FOR THE REMOVAL OF A DRIVER BECAUSE THEY RECEIVED COMPLAINTS FROM PARENTS ABOUT DRIVERS TALKING OF THEIR CELL PHONES. IT IS A SAFETY ISSUE.

REMEMBER, IT IS ALL ABOUT PERCEPTION. ONLY DRIVERS CAN FIX THIS PERCEPTION.

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

Jackets were given to everyone listed above. Everyone starts out the year with perfect attendance. How many will be on this list next June?

Will you be?

"ALL THINGS ARE DIFFICULT BEFORE THEY ARE EASY."

RENEWAL REMINDER

THE FOLLOWING CDL DRIVERS ARE DUE FOR LICENSE RENEWAL

What will be the next AA Transportation Team Challenge?

ANY IDEAS?

SEND ME YOUR THOUGHTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WINNERS AND PARTICIPANTS OF THE BIGGEST LOSER TEAM CHALLENGE. IT WAS FUN EVENT!

CONGRATULATIONS

***AL WALVER
and AA LIMOUSINE***

Received by US Mail 9/16/09:

Your service was great. Everything came off on time and went smoothly. Your driver Al is a great guy, as were the other two.

Thanks for everything -- Zukas is great.

Gerry Meiler, Wedding 9/4/2009

AA TRANSPORTATION RECIPE BOOK

We are getting more recipes in. It's not too late to be included in

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,
Terry Harmon,
James Keller,
Muriel White

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

COMMONWEALTH of MASSACHUSETTS
540 CMR 27.00 - REGULATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES IDLING ON
SCHOOL GROUNDS

NO IDLING SCHOOL BUSES, VANS OR AUTOS
AT ANY SCHOOL IS HERE.

General Restrictions:

No motor vehicle operator shall cause or allow the engine of any motor vehicle operated by him or her on school grounds to idle unnecessarily.

NOVEMBER **RENEWALS**

Webster/Southbridge **& Auburn**

Mary Antalek,
Judy Donabedian,
Karen Emond,
Edmond Soucy

Lake Street

Dawn Cavanaugh,
Nancy Griffin,
Kevin Heipt,
Jose Torres

Cherry Street

Theresa Costa,
Kimberly Duvarney,
Sharon Fraser,
Beatrice Frechette,
Robert Leach,
Milagro Maldonado,
Anna Matney,
Lisa Sclafani,
Xiaofang Xu

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

MARK YOUR **CALENDAR**

NOVEMBER **25TH**

OUR ANNUAL **HOLIDAY**

A motor vehicle operator shall not idle a motor vehicle within 100 feet from a known and active school air intake system, unless the school has determined that alternative locations block traffic, impair student safety or are not cost effective. Reasonable efforts should be made by school to identify by signage all such known and active air intake systems.

Exemptions:

The regulation provides for exceptions due to weather and other conditions. See me for an explanation of these exemptions, and if they apply to you.

Penalties:

An operator or owner of a motor vehicle who violates the regulations shall be subject to civil assessment as follows:

1st offense \$100, \$500 for 2nd and subsequent offenses. The Company WILL NOT pay any such penalty for a driver who violates this regulation.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTION REGARDING IDLING OF SCHOOL BUSES, VANS, OR AUTOMOBILES AT SCHOOL LOCATIONS, PLEASE SEE ME IMMEDIATELY.

CHERRY STREET YARD

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

Rita Ernenwein, Manager

508-791-9100 ext 2

Thanks to all drivers and the dispatchers for making the startup great this year. We had a few problems that were corrected quickly.

Let's keep the momentum of a great startup going throughout the whole school year.

LAKE STREET YARD

**LUNCH FOR
ALL
EMPLOYEES**

**STARTS AT
NOON AT
THE MAIN
OFFICE, 2nd
FLOOR**

**DEEP FRIED
TURKEY,
FRENCH
FRIED SWEET
POTATOES,
SALADS AND
MORE.**

**FLEET
MAINTENANCE**

**John Hartman,
Manager
508-845-7216**

**IT IS ALREADY
GETTING COLD IN
THE MORNING.**

**PARK-OUTS - START
YOUR BUS EARLY FOR
YOUR SCHOOL
ROUTE. IF A
PROBLEM, CALL
THE OFFICE FOR**

Shrewsbury, Elm Park, Rainbow, Webster Square

Sean Lyonnais, Manager

508-753-6322

Welcome back Shrewsbury drivers! We thank you all for contributing to a great start of the 2009-2010 school year. All of you have shown a wonderful level of professionalism in everything that can go on at the beginning of a school year. From dealing with all the changes being made to your routes, dealing with concerned parents and also the road conditions that may delay you. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed. Let's keep up the good work all school year.

One of our drivers is missing her keychain that she has had for the past 5 years on her bus. It's a keychain with Mickey Mouse sitting on it, and with the name Ginny on it. It was given to her by her grandchildren and she would like to it back. So, please, if you see it or know where it is, can you have it returned to the Lake Street Office.

Student Management Techniques:

The office is always open to those who need help with student management. If you are having trouble with students, we are available to help you. The most effective procedure for student management would be to give one verbal warning to the children of concern, and if that doesn't correct the situation, pull over and secure the bus in a safe place, take your key and walk to the child of concern, ask that child to come to the front and place them in a seat closest to you. Tell that child that they will be written up. Please be sure to follow through with the write up as soon as you get back to the yard. Take the child's name or ID number for reference to the write up. Remember, you are not alone.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Shrewsbury Public Schools

October 9th - Professional Development Day / NO School

October 12 - Columbus Day / NO School

November 3rd - No School (Pre-K-8 Parent Conferences; 9-12 Professional Dev.)

November 11th - Veteran's Day / NO School

November 25th - 27th Thanksgiving Break / No School

St. Mary's

October 12th - Columbus Day / NO School

November 2nd and 3rd - Religious Enrichment and Parent Conferences / NO School

HELP.

If you need any repairs call the Garage and let me know the problem. DO NOT TALK WITH ANY MECHANIC, TALK WITH ME. 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.

November 11th - Veteran's Day / NO School
November 25th - 27th Thanksgiving Break / NO School

St. John's

October 12th - Columbus Day / NO School
October 19th - Faculty Retreat / NO School
November 11th - Veteran's Day / NO school
November 25th - 27th - Thanksgiving Break / NO School

Montessori

October 12th - Columbus Day / NO School
November 11th - Veteran's Day / NO School
November 25th - 27th - Thanksgiving Break / NO School

Al-Hamra Academy

September 17th - 22nd - Ramadan Vacation
October 5th - Half Day / 12 noon Dismissal
October 9th - Professional Development Day / NO School
November 2nd - Half Day / 12 noon Dismissal
November 20th - Parent Teacher Conferences / NO School
November 25th - December 1st - Thanksgiving Break and Professional Day

Assabet Valley Reg Voc

October 9th - Teachers Day / NO School
October 12th - Columbus Day / NO School
November 11th - Veteran's Day / NO School
November 25th - 27th Thanksgiving Break / NO School

Keep up the great work all you wonderful drivers and monitors. We appreciate you coming to work everyday and being dedicated to the safety of the children drive. Have a great school year.

WEBSTER OFFICE

Webster, Southbridge, Auburn
Linda Perno, Manager
508-943-0482

First and foremost I would like to Thank You all for a GREAT start up to the 2009-2010 School year! This has truly been one of the smoothest years in my history here at AA Transportation! And, I THANK each and every one of you for

AA LIMOUSINE SERVICE

John Pond, Manager
508-791-9100 ext 1

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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
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

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

"IT MAY BE

the professionalism you show on a daily basis. Keep up the good work, it's greatly appreciated!

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

In Maine they tell of an old man walking along the beach with his grandson, who picked up each starfish they passed and threw it back into the sea. "If I left them up here", the boy said, "they would dry up and die. I'm saving their lives."

"But" protested the old man, "the beach goes on for miles, and there are millions of starfish. What you are doing won't make any difference."

The boy looked at the starfish in his hand, gently threw it into the ocean, and answered: "It makes a difference to this one."

October is School Bus Safety Month, I believe every day is School Bus Safety Day! A good practice with the younger students is to go over the 10 rules. Pick a rule a week and have the children state it as they are loading or unloading, make a lesson out of it. I have an assortment of kid based coloring sheets for School Bus Safety. If you are interested please stop by, and we will make you copies to pass out.

Please be sure to have your time sheets in on Monday's, when picking up your check. Your prior week time sheet should be in hand. ALL boxes that pertain to your route should be filled in: date, time, explanation of Charters on back with the mileage readings. These are important for billing and payroll. It all makes for a happy payroll :)

Congratulations

to Vanessa Baldyga of Webster, on the birth of her 2nd son Tristan Dean

**THOSE WHO
DO MOST,
DREAM
MOST."**

Chandler on June 4, 2009.

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

I want to personally thank everyone for a job well done! The start up this year was wonderful!

S - Start year with a positive attitude.

E - Encourage others to be their best.

P - Practice good driving habits - winter is coming soon.

T - Take the time to clean your vehicle.

E - Exact Information - keep info on route sheets accurate.

M - Mandatory Meetings are 12/17, 3/18, 6/10

B - Billboards- you are driving a billboard, drive cautiously and respect others on the road.

E - Everyday inspect your vehicle.

R - Report any issues with van or route.

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 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