

# IN THE NEWS AT ARMS

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Volume 3, Number 5

January, 2012

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## From the Principal

Happy New Year! I hope you and yours had an opportunity to relax and enjoy the vacation. It is a welcome change from December to run a school with rested students and staff.

As I mentioned in my last newsletter, the schools are looking at changing start times to address the research that says middle and high school students should be starting school later than 7:45. The three forums have been scheduled for:

- Wednesday, January 25 - 7 to 9 p.m. - Bangs Community Center (Large Activity Room)
- Tuesday, January 31 - 7 to 9 p.m. - Crocker Farm Elementary School (Auditorium)
- Tuesday, February 7 - 7 to 9 p.m. - Amherst Regional Middle School (Auditorium)

The other major planning we are doing right now is preparing to register and transition students for next year. We just sent letters to the sixth grade teachers about the process for transition into 7<sup>th</sup> grade. That process mostly happens in March.

The easiest registration is for 8<sup>th</sup> grade. We will send home registration forms for 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents/guardians and students in advisory. Your guidance counselor, Mr. Sadiq, and teachers are available to help you with any questions you have as you register for 8<sup>th</sup> grade. We are planning to distribute the registration sheets and Program of Studies the last week of February.

For 9<sup>th</sup> grade, there is a much more extensive process that will involve guidance counselors coming to meet with current 8<sup>th</sup> graders, a Parent/Guardian evening scheduled for Wednesday, March 14, online registration and an orientation for students over the summer. Last year, we piloted having a parent/teacher conference with the student during the registration period. Because of the success of that pilot, we will be doing it again this year. Stay tuned for a message from your team on how those will be scheduled.

I hope everyone has a wonderful month!

*Michael Hayes*

# Teams

## **Team Swift River**

Team Swift River students finished December working hard, and hit the ground running after the break. Team teachers were pleased at their ability to maintain focus on their work despite all the distractions of holiday activities, food, visits, travel and changes in routine! As we settle in for the winter months, we are also going to be thinking about "studentship" issues, and the ways that students take responsibility for their own education. We are continuing to focus on being prepared for class, and students are constantly reminded to come to class with all their materials, including a good supply of pencils and pens. At this point, we expect students to have these out and ready at the beginning of class, and not to have to borrow or to retrieve needed items from their lockers. Families can help by making sure their students have plenty of writing materials, assignment books and all needed notebooks and folders in their bags on the morning before school. Many students find that using an easily-identifiable (bright-colored?) folder for homework helps them keep papers organized so they can bring them home to work on, and turn them in when they get to class. As always, if providing pencils or folders for your student is financially difficult, just let a team teacher know and we will see that your student has these things. Finally, Ms. Keppler is looking for a few two liter soda bottles for an experiment. If you have any at home you would like to donate, please send them in with your student.

## **Team Quabbin**

The Mr. Holmboe special edition: You should have gotten some information about our new science teacher in a letter he sent home with the students. Here are some things you probably don't know. Mr. Holmboe has been involved in research every summer for the past few years. In conjunction with a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, he has been studying the Whitebark Pine in the Eagle Cap Mountains of Northeast Oregon. The research is looking at historical climate data as determined through tree ring core samples. He spends up to three weeks in the woods seeing a pristine and beautiful wilderness but few other humans.

According to some students, Mr. Holmboe may know how to read people's minds. Hopefully, using skepticism and scientific inquiry this assertion will be put to the test. After his first week, here is what some students have to say: "He thinks he's psychic, kinda creepy", "Mr. Holmboe's awesome.", "He seems experienced.", "He told me what my last name means.", "He went to a cool college, it seems beast.", "He's cool." Despite Mr. Holmboe's purported mental abilities, he is nervous, and frankly, clueless about driving in snow. We hope his commute to and from work is safe.

Welcome to Team Quabbin Mr. Holmboe. Thank you to Team Quabbin students for opening their hearts and minds to the new teacher on the team.

Other Team Quabbin happenings: The students and teachers were treated to 3 different speakers in the past month. Prof. Moss came to talk about the Akosombo Dam in W. Africa and his experience bringing laptops to a village near the dam. Prof. Ndikumana, who has developed the African Development Policy Program at UMass, came to talk about poverty in W. Africa and the pros and cons of damming for hydroelectric power. Finally, Dean Cycon, owner and founder of Dean's Beans, came to talk about fair trade and the plight of coffee farmers around the world. All three speakers were informative and inspirational. We are honored and lucky to have them share their time with us.

## **Team Metacomet**

Team Metacomet is ringing in the New Year with lively academic fun!

This month, we proudly sent our team Geography Bee finalists, Ethan Thayumanavan and Ian Kaye to the school Geography Bee. Congratulations, Ethan and Ian! Additional fun will be had as the team goes on an Ice Skating Field Trip on January 23. We'll have some fun together while tying in our study of the human body in Science class!

In advisory this month, we're both working on the comprehension skill of questioning and focusing on organization. We had a tremendous amount of fun in December and early January with our Team Metacomet Advisory Ping Pong Tournament. Metacomet teachers were especially impressed by the camaraderie and sense of fairness that we saw in our students. The following awesome students played in our final match: Marion Carr, Scott Harvey-Arnold, Max Hopley, Samantha Klein, Sara Levy, Daniel Lyra, Leandre Paris, Will Schoenberger, Andre Shepard, Brendan Tassy, Nate Weinberg and Noah Zobel. The 1<sup>st</sup> place gold paddle was given to Ms. S-F's Advisory, with Mr. Price's Advisory earning the 2<sup>nd</sup> place silver paddle. Congrats to all our Ping Pong players!

Academic Study has returned to a time each week where our students can get time for both challenge and support. From now until February break, Metacomet students are either getting support in mathematics or organization or working on a challenge project in English, Science, or Social Studies class or Honors work for Math.

Please remind (& support) Metacomet students to check in with teachers when they've been absent, as they are responsible for work missed. Thank you, as always, for sending us your bright, inquisitive, growing, 7<sup>th</sup> grade Metacomites.

## **Team Amethyst**

Ever wonder why Wayne Gretzki couldn't do a triple axle? Among other things, it has to do with kind of ice skate, skate blade length and blade placement (along with years of practice, of course). Team Amethyst students enjoyed front-loading the winter break a bit with a short ice-skating trip to the Mullin's Center practice rink. Following the trip, students learned about the interaction of technology and skill in mastering the various kinds of ways of propelling oneself on ice: hockey, figure skating, speed skating, recreational skating. Many thanks to our two young Gretzkis: Marshall O'Leary and Jack Rees, who successfully organized a giant game of fishy, fishy wherein everyone had fun and there were no booboos. Many thanks also to our parent chaperones: Mr. O'Leary; Ms. Kahan; Ms. Naughton; Ms. Davies. Finally, thanks to all of the teachers and paraprofessionals who helped to get EVERYONE up on skates and moving forward at some point during the trip. Very impressive!

Last Friday was a kickoff day for our second team fundraising event: Hillside organic pizza and frozen cookie dough. Students received order forms and are working towards a goal of selling 5 items (either pizza or cookie dough) by Wednesday, January 25. Proceeds will go to subsidizing field trips and the end of the year trip. The pizza (gluten free options are available) and frozen cookie dough will be available for distribution on Thursday, February 2. Students will be responsible for distributing their customers' orders. Therefore, please arrange to have your child pick up his/her order from the Middle School Cafeteria between 2:30 and 3:30 on Thursday, February 2.

Other important news: Amethyst students Merissa Stromgren, Sasha Young, Emma Gwyther, Emma Jo Anderson, Zofia Noble and Franlisa Rowell led an effort to collect 130 pounds of food for the Amherst Survival Center in the few weeks prior to the winter break.

Made up of 33 atolls, which country straddles both the equator and the International Date Line? \* Hmmmmmm..... The three Amethyst students who won the team Geobee and who will represent the team at the school Geobee in January are Jon Naughton and Max Conte. The alternate is Isabel Trip. We wish these students the best as they compete at the school level. Finally, team teachers are in need of a constant supply of tissues. If you are able, please send a box in with your student and/or drop off donations of tissues in the main office. Thank you!

- Republic of Kiribati

## **Team Wyola**

Team Wyola students celebrated the end of 2011 with a dessert party in the cafeteria and RESPECT awards in the auditorium. Thanks to all families who provided baked goods and other desserts for our party—we had enough to satisfy every sweet tooth on the team! Awards were handed out for Outstanding Speeches and students had the opportunity to see and hear many stellar examples of hooks, theses, history, supporting details, appeals to emotion, use of repetition and metaphors, and other aspects of a successful speech. Congratulations to all of our Wyola students who crafted and delivered speeches which expressed their perspectives on these social and economic issues.

Team Wyola students are having a fabulous winter in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. They are invigorated by their study of Transformations in all their core subjects: in literature, government, states of matter, and mathematics. A hearty congratulation to Tom Perkins, Solomon Rueschemeyer-Bailey, and Jonathan Hosea, the Team Wyola representatives in the school-wide Geography Bee on January 19th.

We have just begun our new Academic Study session - students will be viewing and discussing films which focus on social issues and people who speak out, exploring and performing music, cooperatively competing, continuing experiments in granular physics, and challenging themselves in mathematics.

We've noticed that the vast majority of Team Wyola students are really hitting their stride here in January of 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Most are engaged, putting forth good effort, and making learning a pleasure in our classes. We encourage Team Wyola families to check online grades in Power School regularly and to help us to support those students who are still struggling.

# Subjects

## **Math**

**Math 7** - Seventh grade math classes are currently working in a geometry unit. Students have been finding the surface area and volume of prisms, cylinders and pyramids. Students have also been exploring the two-dimensional nets, or flat patterns, which can be cut out and folded to create three-dimensional shapes. The unit will be culminating in a rice container project, where students will design and create a packaging model, which could be used to hold a specified amount of rice.

**Math 8** - We have just completed the unit on linearity. Students worked with graphs, equations and tables (the G.E.T. method) relating them all to real life situations that can be represented in linear models. The concepts of slope, y-intercept and the slope-intercept method of graphing were done more deeply than in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, and will hopefully serve these students well in their 9<sup>th</sup> grade math studies. Coming up is a unit on transformational geometry which students always enjoy.

**Honors Algebra** - Algebra is finishing up the first half of the year by working with inequalities and linear programming. We will soon begin our

review for the midyear final exam which will conclude course 1 of Algebra I. In early February, we will start the non-linear portion of the year (quadratics, etc).

## **English**

**English 7** - Rather than tell you what the students have been up to, we thought it would be better to show you. What follows are some samples of student work.

These are haiku poems from students' group work on setting in their literature circle books.

### About Homeless Bird:

The streets are crowded  
So easy to get lost in  
So overwhelming

### About Fever 1793:

Philadelphia  
It was once the capital  
But then came the Plague

### About Touching Spirit Bear:

The burning shelter  
Collapses to the cold ground  
What a pleasant sound

### About Fever 1793:

Life itself has cracked  
Death is in the mournful air  
And the bell still tolls

### About A Girl Named Disaster:

Rowing to somewhere  
Not quite sure where I should go  
Adventure onward

**English 8** – Eighth grade students are currently reading books and meeting in small groups to focus on factors leading to life's transformations. In preparation for these lit. circle meetings, students are taking notes that allow them to discuss various aspects of the book. In the meetings, they are practicing the process having of smooth and natural discussions while using their notes and sharing air time. In between meeting days, students have been creating a visual

representation of a transformation experienced by one or more characters from the unit's book list. Their pictorial allegory shows a deep understanding of characterization, through their abstract and creative thinking. When books are all read, the transformations are identified and explained literally and figuratively, students will work through the steps of the writing process to write an analytical essay exploring the topic of transformations.

Our next unit begins in February and we will begin with Steinbeck's, *Of Mice and Men*.

## **Science**

**Science 7** - Why do people get out of breath and overheated when they exercise? Be ready to ask your child about this question in the next few weeks! The very rich cell unit laid the foundation for the next unit on the major human body systems that obtain and distribute materials and energy needed for life: circulatory, respiratory and digestive. Highlighted activities and labs include: optional observations of sheep lungs and pig hearts; making model lungs; digestive enzyme lab; calorimeter lab; lung volume lab and an open-ended inquiry lab on the effect of student-choice variables on heart rate. Additionally, we are looking forward to a community member providing our students with an optional opportunity to observe the major internal organs of a rabbit. As a culmination, students will enact the movement of materials through the body systems to gain an understanding of their interrelationship. To help us model these processes, we are on the look-out for Lego blocks. So if you have any old sets you would like to donate to science, please contact your child's science teacher.

**Science 8** - How can you make potable water from polluted water? How are mixtures different from pure substances? How can you separate a mixture of staples, poppy seeds, salt and sand and recover all of the separate ingredients? Is the mixture of dyes that make up black ink the same for every black felt-tip pen? How is lip balm different from soap? Can you really separate the iron out of Total cereal? Seeking answers to these questions through readings, discussions, activities and lab

investigations provide a culmination to our unit on physical properties and physical changes. Next up: pure substances, featuring the elements and the Periodic Table. Stay tuned.

And, for those of you who have been following the Barbie stats... Barbie is finally done... literally. For our last investigation of physical properties and change of state, we tested Barbie's ability to withstand the cold. No, we did not ship her to the Arctic. We submerged her in liquid nitrogen. We found out two things by doing this simple experiment: Barbie's head, which is made of ABC plastic, behaves differently than the rest of her body which is (PVC) polyvinyl chloride, apparently. ABC is much more brittle than PVC! Also, we knew Barbie was hollow from our density experiment, and we anticipated that when she filled with liquid nitrogen, there might be a problem. There was. When liquids turn to gases, there is a great deal of thermal expansion. Enough said.

### **Social Studies**

The ARMS National Geographic Geography Bee will take place in the MS Auditorium on Thursday, January 19, from 2:30-3:30 p.m. There, eleven students representing Teams Amethyst, Metacomet, Quabbin, Swift River and Wyola will answer geography questions until one student is chosen as our representative in the regional competition. Parents/guardians, friends and ARMS students are welcome and encouraged to come.

**Grade 7** – Seventh grade students are in the middle of their unit on the Environment and Africa. The focus for their research is water in West Africa. Students have read “The Burden of Thirst” and carried water around the inside perimeter of ARMS to simulate the water gathering experience of women and children in West Africa and many parts of the world. Students will be producing a research-based examination of water as a resource in West Africa, and will be teaming to produce a multi-faceted multi-media analysis of the water in West Africa with their classmates.

**Grade 8** - Eighth grade students completed their study of the causes of the American Revolution and demonstrated their mastery of the complex series of events that brought the American colonists to the brink of war with Great Britain in 1775 before the Holiday Break. Students are currently examining the strengths and weaknesses of the Article of Confederation (US Gov. version 1.0) and will be simulating the Constitutional Convention as the Framers worked to develop US Gov. version 2.0. We'll conclude our unit on Political Change by examining several recent precedent setting Supreme Court cases that emphasize the ongoing nature of political change.

### **World Language**

**French –**

#### **BONJOUR les familles! Joyeuse Année à tous!**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> year French classes have begun the study of the town – names of the buildings, common activities associated with each building and how to give directions. The students in Mme Coby's class have constructed 3D buildings so that they can set up a town on the floor. They have been taking turns stating where a building is. One student will then push a toy car through the town as a classmate gives directions in French. We have also just begun talking about future activities by using the verb ALLER. This week, the students in Mme Dorrie's class will construct a similar imaginary town and physically move through this town as they ask and give directions.

In the first year classes, we are beginning one of our favorite units – going to a CAFÉ! We will be learning how to get a waiter's attention, order food and drink items, ask for the total and pay the bill. One of the possible projects for this unit is creating a menu. There will be an opportunity for skits involving inviting a friend to go to a café and placing an order. Students are also learning about typical French fast-foods and popular beverages.

All French students have been encouraged to create a CHALLENGE project. Last trimester's projects included flashcards for vocabulary lists, essay on a famous French historical figure, food creations, travel brochures, posters – travel, flags,

cuisine. The students have also made comic strips, children's books – counting, ABC, and simple stories based on what they have learned in French. Students may also sing and record a French song, or play a French piece of music on their preferred instrument. There are numerous options. Please encourage your child to consider doing a CHALLENGE project this trimester. More information is available from both Mme Dorrie and Mme Coby.

### **Chorus**

In January, both the Chorus 7 & Chorus 8 are working on new music for the March concerts.

On January 15<sup>th</sup> the Chorus 8 will have sung the National Anthem at a Springfield Falcon's hockey game. The Chorus 7 will do the same thing at a UMass Men's Basketball game in March.

### **“Night on Broadway” Show**

Stay tuned for information concerning the Chorus 8 upcoming show a “Night on Broadway”. The show will take place on Friday, March 30 at 6:30 p.m. in the MS Auditorium. Tickets will go on sale in early March. This will be a great show for all ages.

### **PE**

As you know, we have started our Health/Swimming Units in Physical Education Class. The boys started with swimming and the girls with health when we returned from the vacation break. Each subject will be approximately 8-10 classes, (Tuesday – Friday) and then we will switch; the boys will have health and the girls will have swimming. On Mondays, all students will have physical education classes. We appreciate your efforts in helping your son or daughter being prepared for class. We suggest that students keep a set of shorts and crew-neck tee shirt (P.E. Clothes) in their hallway locker at all times.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

### **ELL**

We are in a new trimester; please check Power School Parent Portal for further information on your child's progress. If you do not have access to a computer, please contact the main office or your child's teacher.

### **STAY TUNED**

- Registration for 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be happening soon
- Spring 2012 MEPA test will be the last administration during the month of March
- Check School Calendar in our website for posted events, and late start dates

### **HOW CAN WE SUPPORT YOU?**

- If you need translation of documents or school notifications contact Mildred Martinez at the ELL Central Office, 362-1871.
- ELE Teachers are available anytime: Dr. Ortiz, 362-1912, and/or Ms. Reyes, 362-1942
- Our school counselors: Mr. Sadiq, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, 362-1840, and/or Ms. Boyd, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, 362-1838

### **REMINDERS**

#### **ELE Homework Club:**

When: Tuesday, from 2:30-3:30 pm

Where: C12 (Dr. Ortiz)

Why: A great opportunity to get help with homework, projects or prepare for exams in a relaxed atmosphere.

How: Walk-In by 2:30 ready to work!

We request donations of healthy snacks, paper plates, cups, drinks and tissue. Your donations are greatly appreciated!

THANK YOU!

Dr. Ortiz and Ms. Reyes

# Other Important Details

## SMITH VOCATIONAL FIELD TRIP

On January 31, there will be a field trip to Smith Vocational School. Students will meet in the front lobby at 9 a.m. and will return to school at approximately 11 a.m. Upon their return students will go directly to class, except those students who missed lunch or are scheduled to go to lunch. If there is a snow day, we will go Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. If students do not return their permission slips, they will be unable to go on the field trip. Questions can be directed to Denise Boyd, Guidance Counselor @ [boydd@arps.org](mailto:boydd@arps.org) or 362-1850.

## FRANKLIN TECHNICAL SCHOOL FIELD TRIP

On February 3<sup>rd</sup>, there will be a field trip to Franklin Vocational Technical School. Students will meet in the front lobby immediately following advisory @ 8 :15 a.m. and will return to school at approximately 11 a.m. Upon their return, students will go directly to class, except those students who are scheduled to go to lunch. They will have lunch then return to class. If students do not return their permission slips by January 26<sup>th</sup> they will be unable to go on the field trip. Questions can be directed to Denise Boyd, Guidance Counselor @ [boydd@arps.org](mailto:boydd@arps.org) or 362-1850.

## HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

Amherst Regional Middle School is once again hosting students from Kanegasaki, Japan from March 21-28th. Host families are needed for this visit. Students from Kanegasaki, have been coming to Amherst for 20 years. This cultural exchange program has been the core of the longstanding relationship that has linked our two sister cities. If your family is interested in hosting, please pick up an application in the front office or contact Ms. Boyd, Guidance Counselor.

## INDOOR FIELD HOCKEY

A 5-week program to introduce indoor field hockey to students in grades 5 to 8. The program will begin March 11 and run through April 8, Sunday afternoons, from 3-5 pm, in the HS Gym. Enroll by February 29. Program is limited to 36 participants. Cost \$15. All equipment will be provided and no prior experience necessary. Please see attached flyer.

## LIBRARY NEWS

The internet has become the information source of choice for most teens. Our students at Amherst Regional Middle School know that what they read on the internet is not always true, but they often do not have the skills to navigate the online world of information carefully, safely, and wisely. For this reason, we are equipping our students with a tool they can use to assess and judge information they find online. This tool is represented by an acronym – **RADCAB** – that stands for six important concepts for evaluating information:

**R**elevancy: Is the information relevant to the question at hand? Am I on the right track?

**A**ppropriateness: Is the information suitable to my age and core values?

**D**etail: How much information do I need? Is the depth of coverage adequate?

**C**urrency: When was the information published or last updated?

**A**uthority: Who is the author of the information? What are his or her qualifications?

**B**ias: Why was this information written? Was it written to inform me, persuade me, entertain me, or sell me something?

Use this evaluation tool at home, too, and become better users of online information!

### **ARMS AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY ASSEMBLY**

**The Annual ARMS African American History Assembly** is scheduled for Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. The assembly will be performed at 8:15 a.m. for 7<sup>th</sup> grade Teams and then again at 9:30 a.m. for 8<sup>th</sup> grade Teams. All families and friends of ARMS are invited to attend. Here is a statement about our goals for the assembly:

We are 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students of all races, all ethnicities, all cultural heritage backgrounds, and all colors. We know that African American History is important to all people in the United States and all people in Amherst Regional Middle School.

*What are our OBJECTIVES? Why are we doing this? What do we want to accomplish through this assembly?*

- We want to communicate the importance of African American history to all people of all races and cultural backgrounds.
- We want to teach some history.
- We want to dispel stereotypes.
- We want to highlight important people in Amherst and also important people from history.
- We want to emphasize the importance of elements of the culture such as music and dance.
- We want to make the assembly memorable.
- We want to make the assembly entertaining as well as **educational**.

### **Dates to Remember**

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Sunday, January 15</b>   | – Chorus 8 performs the National Anthem at the Mass Mutual Center at the Falcons Game – See Chorus article above for details        |
| <b>Monday, January 16</b>   | – Martin Luther King Jr. Day – School is Closed   |
| <b>Thursday, January 19</b> | – ARMS National Geographic Geography Bee – MS Auditorium – 2:30-3:30 p.m. – See Social Studies Department article above for details |
| <b>Friday, January 20</b>   | – Latin Club to Mt. Holyoke College for Classics Day  |
| <b>Monday, January 23</b>   | – Team Metacomet Field Trip to UMass Practice Ice Skating Rink  |
| <b>Wednesday, Jan. 25</b>   | – Team Amethyst – Hillside organic pizza and cookie dough orders are due  |
| <b>Wednesday, Jan. 25</b>   | – 1 <sup>st</sup> Public Forum regarding school start times – 7-9 p.m. – Bangs Community Center (Large Activity Room)               |
| <b>Tuesday, January 31</b>  | – Smith Vocational Field Trip – See article above   |
| <b>Tuesday, January 31</b>  | – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Public Forum regarding school start times – 7-9 p.m. – Crocker Farm Elementary School (Auditorium)                |
| <b>Thursday, Feb. 2</b>     | – Team Amethyst – The pizza and frozen cookie dough will be available pickup in the MS Cafeteria between 2:30 and 3:30 p.m.         |
| <b>Friday, February 3</b>   | – Franklin Tech Field Trip – See article above  |
| <b>Tuesday, February 7</b>  | – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Public Forum regarding school start times – 7-9 p.m. – Amherst Regional Middle School (Auditorium)                |
| <b>Thursday, February 9</b> | – Late Start Thursday   |
| <b>Friday, February 10</b>  | – Valentine Social – 7:00-9:00 p.m. – MS Cafeteria – See flyer below for details  |
| <b>Friday, February 17</b>  | – ARMS African American History Assembly – See article above for details  |



# Valentine Social



for Amherst Regional Middle School Students

Friday, February 10, 7:00-9:00 PM

Pay at the door...FEE: \$4.00

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS**

The objective of the SOCIAL is to provide a safe environment for ARMS students to socialize and participate in activities such as games, dancing to a professional DJ and more. All proceeds will be donated to the Yearbook Club. If the ticket price presents a hardship, students may go to the guidance office to receive a ticket; these requests will be confidential.

**Parent/Guardian Support Needed!** We know it is important to respect the Middle School Student's need for independence, and we know that students will resist the idea of their parents/guardians attending the social. *We have devised a system to utilize parent chaperones, which respects the student's independence.* We assign parent chaperones to the hallways, as monitors at doors and collecting money, while we utilize faculty and staff inside the cafeteria (dance floor). Please respectfully tell your youngster that we cannot hold the social without Parent/Guardian support, and that you do not want the social to be cancelled due to lack of chaperones. *Please email De Boyd at [boydd@arps.org](mailto:boydd@arps.org) or call the school 362-1800 to sign up to be a chaperone.*

### **HEALTH and SAFETY GUIDELINES for the SOCIAL:**

Parents/Guardians please review with your youngster.

***Health and safety is a priority at all ARMS events. For that reason, we are uncompromising about these guidelines. Students who do not comply will have their parent/guardian phoned to take them home.***

-The use or possession of drugs, alcohol, tobacco or other controlled substances is not tolerated at any ARMS event.

-All coats, purses and backpacks must be left behind the counter at the door.

-The social is from 7:00-9:00; for safety reasons students will not be permitted to leave the building until 9:00 PM.

-The social is for Amherst Regional Middle School students ONLY. **We are sorry we cannot allow guests from other schools to attend: not even ARHS.**

-Unsafe behavior or physical aggression is not acceptable. Dancing is great as long as it is appropriate.

-The social ends at 9:00. All Parents/Guardians should please **BE IN THE PARKING LOT PROMPTLY AT 9:00!** We advise against allowing students to "go into town" to hang out! Please support our health and safety efforts by picking up your student on time! **Do not wait for them to call you! Please be waiting at 9:00.**

# Indoor Field Hockey

for

## Grades 5-8

*Want to give field hockey a try? Come join us!*

All equipment provided. No prior experience needed.

Players will develop ball-handling skills and learn the rules and strategies of field hockey. Each two- hour session will consist of a combination of instruction and practice of skills and playing games.

HS Varsity players will coach and mentor participants.

Sundays, 3pm-5pm-- begins March 11 and runs for 5 weeks

Last meeting has been moved from April 8 to Sat., April 7

**Location: High School Gym**

Cost is \$15.00 for a 5 week program; free/reduced income status exempts from fee.

Proceeds beyond the cost of the program will go to support the ARHS field hockey program. For more information, contact Andrea Dustin at: [adustin1@verizon.net](mailto:adustin1@verizon.net) or leave a message at 549-7542.

Player Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Information: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail or submit forms to: Andrea Dustin, Amherst Regional High School, 21 Mattoon Street, Amherst, MA 01002 **Register by February 29 –Enrollment is limited to 36 participants.**