

IN THE NEWS AT ARMS

Volume 3, Number 3

October, 2011

From the Principal

Happy Fall! I hope you are enjoying the beautiful days we have had over the past few weeks.

With the passing of Open House, the start of school is officially complete. We hope every parent/guardian has had a least one chance to come into the school, meet your child's teachers, and find out more about how to be an integral part of our school community. As we settle into the routines of the year, we hope you will stay actively involved.

It is very important (and the law!) for students to be in school consistently. This year, I am focusing on addressing student patterns around absences and tardies. One policy that is new to the MS this year is that tardies are not excused unless a student is late for religious reasons or they are sick. Oversleeping, missing the bus, etc. are reasons that no longer will be accepted. To be clear, the law is the same around this, but we are going to be enforcing it as we should have been in the past. For complete details on absentee and tardy policies, please see the student handbook.

Our after school clubs have started. We have a great variety of offerings that many students are accessing. Donations that were made through the Family School Partnership (our PGO) have made it possible to start these clubs; however, while we are close to the amount needed to support After School activities, we are still \$2000 short of the amount needed to sustain these programs all year.

Seventh grade parent/guardian conferences are starting soon. If you have not signed up for one, be sure to check in with your child's advisor. Progress reports will be coming out this month. For more detailed information, be sure to log onto the Parent Portal to see how your child is doing on specific assignments. If you have not gotten a login and password yet, you can stop by the main office with a picture ID to get one.

Have a great month!

Michael Hayes

Teams

Team Swift River

What an exciting first month the students on Team Swift River have had! Despite the rainy conditions, we had a great time on the Mill River field trip. Many of the Team Swift River students have been working on a fundraiser for the team - selling flower bulbs. With only three weeks to do it, 29 students have sold more than \$2,000 worth of bulbs, raising well over \$1,000 for our team! This money will be used to help reduce the cost of future field trips, provide scholarship assistance for those who may need it for field trips, and will possibly be used for snacks and goodies for the whole team from time to time. If there is money still left in the account in the spring, we'll use it toward team t-shirts. A big thank you to our community, who continues to be so generous in supporting our students and schools! We hope that the glorious color of all those flowers next spring will be a reminder of this nice collaboration.

In Science class news, eight of the Swift River crayfish have found loving homes with students. One male and one female are going to stay in the science classroom, and we'll see what happens. Hopefully there will be some interesting developments right around the time we are studying reproduction! If not, we'll at least get to watch some interesting omnivores in action. In English class, students have been learning about the natural world and writing in the naturalist field journals. Starting this week, students will be editing and publishing these works. In Social Studies, we have been learning about the five themes of geography, and have just started a project called the five themes island project. Math students are beginning to look at algebraic expressions.

Finally, Mr. Hunter's daily homework emailing has begun. Those of you who have signed up already should be getting it daily. If you have not signed up, and wish to, or are having problems receiving it, please email Mr. Hunter at hunter@arps.org.

Thanks,
Team Swift River

Team Quabbin

We are having fun. Team Quabbin students are invested in their education, hard-working, and thoughtful. A few great questions we remember hearing in the past few days:

“Miss, what about negative exponents?”

“What part of speech is the word ‘verb’?”

“How can anything be called unnatural if everything comes from nature?”

We've been grappling with these questions and others in class.

Academic check is now up and running. You can get a sense of what is happening in each team class for the week by going to the ARMS website and clicking on: Academics, our team then the date. We will do our best to have that updated by the end of the school day each Monday. Thank you for your participation in the bulb fundraiser. For our next Team Quabbin fundraiser, we are going to provide refreshments at the UNICEF Social on October 28th. After that, we should have sufficient funding to support our field trips for the year. Speaking of field trips, we are in the beginning phase of planning a field trip to various locations around the Quabbin. It is a fascinating historical and natural location that has many interesting connections with our curriculum.

Please let us know if you have any questions, concerns or ideas you'd like us to consider. Once again, thank you for sending us such wonderful children every day.

Sincerely,
Team Quabbin Teachers

Team Metacomet

Fall is in full swing on Team Metacomet. Students and teachers are all settling in, and now, better acquainted, ready to charge ahead into meaningful and challenging units of study.

This October finds Metacomet students selling bulbs in order to finance some team activities. Soon after the bulb selling fundraiser, we'll be ready to order our new Team Metacomet pencils! Look for them in the coming weeks bearing the winning slogan by Isola Murray: *Have you ever Metacomet?*

We enjoyed meeting Metacomet parents and guardians at Open House, to give all of you a look at what Metacomet students' days are like in school and to give you an idea of our units of study this year in Grade 7. It was, also, truly nice to meet some families on our fun team-building field trip to Mill River early this month. Metacomet students really impressed us with their enthusiasm, readiness to organize and play cooperative games, and cheerfulness despite a chilly damp day. Metacomet teachers, too, were thrilled it did not rain. In late September, we were granted spectacular weather for our journey to local poet Emily Dickinson's Homestead, where students learned about her life and home and found inspiration in her garden, where we wrote poems of our own. A sunny walk from Emily's home to the Beneski Museum of Natural History at Amherst College found Metacomet students exploring, examining, observing and measuring the impressive collection. It was a remarkable day.

Team Metacomet students have been honing our student-created team definition of respect, which includes: *being nice and kind; including people- encouraging people- sincerely complimenting people; being an anti-bully-standing up for other people- being actively anti-racist; being fair and treating people equally; not making fun of others or putting people down, and thinking about the others around you; be aware of other people's feelings and space.*

This definition will be the cornerstone of teamwork and team celebrations this year. Academic Study, too, is moving into full swing this October. We're transitioning from using Academic Study time to get to know the strengths of our students and to orient them to many systems we use here at the middle school, to using Academic Study time to work on math and organizational support, as well as working on challenge projects in our core subject areas.

We are happy to see so many Team Metacomet students staying after school already this year! Staying after school is a wonderful time to get extra help from a teacher, find a productive and supported place to begin your homework, and to check in after being absent. We encourage any Metacomet student, and in particular those who need a place to get homework done, to stay after school on Mondays with Mr. Rana, on Tuesdays with Ms. Burke and Ms. S-F, and on Thursdays with Mr. Price. As always, we're happy to be working with this interesting group!

Team Amethyst

Pun -- *n* the humorous use of a word so as to suggest different meanings, or of words having the same or similar sound but different meanings. Example-- Mike's Corn Maze featuring Noah Webster (Noah him?) will be amazing! The October 13 field trip to Mike's Corn Maze in Sunderland was postponed. The trip has been rescheduled to Wednesday, October 26. Students will leave at 9:30 in the morning and return back to school by 12:45. At Mike's Corn Maze, they will be enriched and challenged by various word games. Prior to the field trip, the students are learning some background information about Noah Webster. The following is from the Mike's Maze website: Noah Webster authored the first dictionary of American English in 1806. He did so because he objected to American school children being taught from British textbooks. Though a nutmegger (Connecticut native), he lived in Amherst from 1812-1822 and helped found Amherst College in 1821. His first dictionary, *A Compendious Dictionary of the English Language*, was published in 1806 and included words of American origin, words that the British would not acknowledge or include in their dictionaries. In order to publish his second, more comprehensive dictionary published in 1828, Noah learned 26 languages to help evaluate the etymologies of the entries. The second edition took him 21 years to complete. The G.C. Merriam

Company of Springfield, MA became the publisher of Webster's dictionaries in 1840 and became Merriam-Webster in 1983. If you would like to read more about Mike's Maze and see an aerial photo, visit <http://mikesmaze.com>. Finally, we would like to thank the many parent chaperones who have volunteered to help us on this trip.

As we approach the middle of the first trimester, we continue to marvel at how our students have settled into new routines, new friends and new teachers. They are managing to keep track of various subject requirements and assignments with increasing ease. Most of them have also figured out the schedule well enough that they consistently make it to the right class at the right time. If you have seen the schedule, this is no small feat! All of these accomplishments are signs that our 8th graders are developing skills that will be helpful for them at the high school.

Team teachers are currently working together to plan academic study options which are appropriate for our students. We are offering both support and challenge in all subjects during the academic study time. Students are working individually, in small groups or in pairs to develop math and ELA skills and to identify areas of interest which will provide challenge opportunities. Using the Renzulli online program, students are choosing and working on challenge projects which match their specific interests.

Team Amethyst teachers enjoyed seeing parents at Open House. We thank you for your continued partnership with us in your child's education.

Team Wyola

The students of Team Wyola recently engaged in the democratic process of voting on two important team matters. The color Blue was chosen as our team color, which does seem appropriate for a team named after a lake. We can wear our color on team pride days and field trips, as well as using the color blue for our team T-shirts. Speaking of team T-shirts, we will soon be holding a contest for students to submit design ideas.

The other item students voted on is our team recognition acronym which this year will appropriately be R.E.S.P.E.C.T. The letters stand for: **R**espectful, **E**ager to learn, **S**upportive, **P**articipates, **E**nthusiastic for Wyola, **C**ollaborates, and **T**akes initiative. On a monthly basis, students will have the opportunity to nominate a classmate to receive recognition in one (or more) of these areas.

By now, all of our students have hopefully brought in their bulb fundraising materials. Please double check that your child has done this! The money we raise from this, as well as future fundraisers, will help alleviate costs for future field trips and other team related activities, as well as the afore-mentioned T-shirts.

On Thursday October 20th, our team will embark on a field trip to Mount Sugarloaf for a day of team building and academic related activities. Students will participate in a Metric Olympics and a human scavenger hunt, and will also be challenged to calculate the slope of various portions of the hike. Cider and donuts will be just some of the rewards for making it to the top. Please make sure that your child has returned their permission slip for this trip, that they bring a lunch on that day, and that they dress appropriately for hiking and for the weather that greets us on the 20th.

We were very glad to meet many of you at last Thursday's open house evening and we look forward to continuing to work with all of you and your children throughout the school year ahead.

Subjects

Math

Math 7 - In 7th grade, we have completed our first unit on factors and multiples. In our upcoming unit called “Expressions and Equations”, students will be working with variables, simplifying expressions by combining like terms, learning the distributive property, and solving basic equations. The honors level work will utilize the same skills but with more complicated terms including multiple variables and exponents. They will also be expected to solve multi-step equations. Parents: Watch for information coming soon from your friendly neighborhood 7th grade math teacher explaining in more detail our grading policies and expectations regarding the honors level work

Math 8 - We have completed our data and statistics unit with a final project analyzing data from the reaction time measurements we did in class. (Please ask your child if they have already passed in their project as it counts for a good part of their grade!)

We are now working in our unit on expressions and equations. Students will be raising their comfort level with representing real life stories with mathematical symbols, numbers and variables as we begin to learn the language of algebra. We will be stressing the ever popular and extremely useful distributive property and will begin the work of solving equations.

This will lead us also into linear relationships and the graphing that goes with it.

Algebra Honors - We have completed our review and enhancement of the basic algebra skills that students were expected to know when entering this course. This included a short unit on rate problems. Now, we are exploring and comparing different types of functions. Students are learning about aspects of functions such as domain and range, and continuous vs. discrete. After working on functions, we will begin exploring linear relationships.

English

English 7 - We are wrapping up our work in Naturalist Field Journals/Poetry and descriptive writing as students are turning their beautiful drafts into illustrated collections of nature inspired verse. Seventh grade students are becoming masters of the Poetry Tool Sets that we have given them and we expect them to carry those tools forward—in the words of Charles Baudelaire, “Always be a poet, even in prose.”

As we leave our work in NFJ’s, we enter into our unit on Character and Environment. In this unit, all

students will consider the idea, “The setting (environment and culture) and the individual are in constant interaction. This dynamic relationship results in positive and negative change in both the character and the setting.” They will explore this big idea through reading, discussing, writing about, and making meaning from the book *Ninth Ward*, by Jewell Parker Rhodes. Students will also read at least one of many literature circle books—including, but not limited to: *The Old Man and the Sea*, *Endurance*, *Chasing Redbird*, *Fever 1792*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. Speaking of adventures, we are very excited to be on the adventure of seventh grade English with you and your children.

We have also given students a writing prompt that we will use to assess where students are as writers. We will use this assessment to help us know our students as writers and to target our instruction as we move our students forward as writers throughout the year. The writing prompt will be revisited over the next few months and revised and edited until it is the best piece of writing that our students have ever done...until the next writing assignment.

English 8 - Things are heating up in Maycomb, Alabama! As the 8th grade English classes delve further into Harper Lee’s classic, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, our classes are learning more and more about lives and habits of the characters that live in this novel. As our reading leads us steadily toward the novel’s climatic courtroom scene and its tragic aftermath, our analytical focus remains rooted in the Enduring Understanding of the Speaking Out unit: *Speaking out effectively against injustice creates empowerment and can spark change on many levels*. In the coming weeks, we will conclude our study of the novel by completing essays designed to demonstrate our understanding of the connection between the novel and our enduring understanding. We will then transition to a speech writing assignment integrating concepts from Social Studies as well as ELA classes.

Science

There is a survey being sent to all ARMS families around science from Beth Graham. We thank you in advance for your participation in the survey which will help our department continue to think about the student experience here at the middle school.

Science 7 - Most of last month's crayfish have found their way to new homes. We have planted lettuce in our greenhouse to allow us to continue making observations and measurements of living things. All

Science 7 classes have completed labs and class work to develop their understanding of the metric system and measurement. We will now move to using these observation and measurement skills to developing questions we can answer through controlled experiments. We are working on identifying variables, writing hypotheses and setting up controlled experiments. This skill will be developed progressively over two years. Our first unit test on the Nature of Science will be given at the end of October. Students have also been exploring primary and secondary sources as ways of learning about the world. We are asking them to follow their curiosity and find a news article about a current topic in science and complete a summary of it.

Science 8 - Students in 8th grade science began the year with an inquiry based lab using Mystery Beads to explore Ultra Violet light exposure. This lab helps anchor what student learning from 7th grade around the scientific inquiry process around hypothesis, independent and dependent variables, and formulating a conclusion based on data analysis. Through the month of September, students have began exploring properties of matter by investigating units of linear measurement (distance/length), the concept of mass and the concept of weight. Students also investigating the relationship between mass and weight here on earth and how that relationship might change with location (ex: What about the moon? A gigantic planet with 10 times the gravitational pull?). In October, we are shifting our focus to how we find the volume of regular and irregular solids and also the volume of liquids. This will lead us into thinking about density.

Social Studies

Social Studies 7 - Students in Global Studies have spent the last four weeks learning how the Five Themes of Geography help us investigate the world. In the next few weeks, students will apply their geography skills to a local town in the Five Themes Project. Students will create a brochure, a poster, or an essay that shows their understanding of the Five Themes and their communities.

Social Studies 8 - Eighth grade students continue work on the Historical Inquiry unit, a skills-based study of how historians work, which includes an exploration of various types of evidence (physical, documentary, forensic, etc.), distinguishing observations from inferences, and the use of primary as well as secondary sources. The unit is currently concluding with a case study in which students will use their new inquiry skills to solve a mysterious historical question - do the remains of James Fort still exist, and can we use our

inquiry skills to arrive at the answer? Students are enthusiastically "digging in."

World Language

Spanish IA students are finishing up their introductory unit, where they have learned greetings, numbers up to 100, the alphabet, the weather, body parts, and some class room vocabulary. They also learned about where Spanish is spoken and did map activities. Their culminating activity for this unit is a small book, or "librito" containing the information they have learned. Soon we will be moving on to the first chapter in their textbook, called Realidades.

Spanish IB students are with Sra.Lopez this year. We have just completed an extensive review of what was learned last year in Spanish IA. We finished our review activity with letter-writing to potential future pen pals (if anyone has connection with schools in Spanish-speaking countries please e-mail me at lopeza@arps.org !). Now, we are beginning the first chapter in our wonderful brand new book, Realidades.

French 1A - Madame Coby and Madame Dorrie's students are able to introduce themselves, ask others' names, say what their nationality is and where they are from. They can spell in French, and count up to 20. They can ask how others are feeling, and tell how they are feeling. They are able to follow classroom instructions in French, as well as to say and ask several classroom phrases such as, "May I go to the bathroom?" In Mme Coby's class, students have begun working on time and will be memorizing a café dialogue between Stephanie and her friend Jean-Paul. In Madame Dorrie's class, students will write and perform a puppet play for their Unit 1 performance assessment, after which they will begin the lesson on time.

French 1B - Madame Coby and Madame Dorrie's students reviewed last year's material, and are now working on Unit 5. Mme Dorrie's class is learning how to describe themselves and others, including physical appearance, age, character traits and nationality. They also created "aliens" that they drew and described in French. Mme Coby's students have been studying objects that can be found both at school and at home. They can now tell others what they have and do not have and where items are located. They will then begin the lesson on description while Mme Dorrie's students work on the objects lesson in which they will describe their rooms and say where their possessions are located.

Many of the French students have begun thinking about challenge projects for the first trimester. Some

have already chosen to create works of art based on French culture. Others are making alphabet or number books. And still others are working on musical or cooking projects. We are all looking forward to seeing the fascinating way our peers choose to challenge themselves. ON Y VA!

Chorus

Chorus Notes: Both the MS Gr. 7 & Gr. 8 Choruses are busily preparing music for the year's first round of concerts. Please make sure the dates are listed on your family calendar. **Please refer to the Chorus Handbook for Concert Dates and Concert Dress that parents/guardians received the beginning of the school year.** Please remember that if you need financial help securing proper concert clothing contact Mr. Ranen at ranend@arps.org

Each Chorus class begins with vocal warm-ups. This is kind of like calisthenics for the voice to prevent strain. This is followed by a "Minute for Notes". During this time, work is done on the board to reinforce sight reading skills both melodic and rhythmic. Students are learning about the different types of notes/rests and their values as well as how to clap them in different rhythmic arrangements.

The Chorus is still in need of boxes of tissues as colds have now begun. If you are able to donate a box, just send it in to school with your child.

Vocal Care: If your child is complaining of a sore or scratchy throat a couple of great remedies are:

-Gargling with salt water (the water should be heated to a tolerable temperature)

-Hot water in a mug with a teaspoon of honey and a squeeze of lemon added.

ATTENTION COFFEE, TEA, & HOT COCOA DRINKERS (All Coffee and Cocoa is Organic and Fair Trade)

Once again, the MS Chorus will be selling coffee, tea, and cocoa and travel mugs as a fundraiser. The money raised will help offset the cost of the Chorus fieldtrip to Boston in June. This year the Chorus will be spending free time at Quincy Market before they go to see the show "Blue Man Group" at the Charles Playhouse. The Chorus will be selling products from Pierce Brothers Coffee Roasters.

The items for sale are:

Fogbuster (a dark roast)	\$12.00 (10 oz.)
Hurricane Blend Decaf	\$13.00 (10 oz.)
English Breakfast Teas	\$10.00 (16 bags)
Hot Chocolate	\$10.00 (8 oz.)
15oz. Travel Mug	\$12.00 (14 oz.)

You may order these items by calling David Ranen, ARMS Choral Director at 362-1961 or e-mailing at ranend@arps.org. Orders must be paid in full when picking up the items. You will be contacted by phone when the orders come in (Nov. 16th).

DON'T MISS OUT ON THESE GREAT PRODUCTS!!!!

ELE

**News from the English Language Learning Program (ELL)
Mrs. Ortiz and Ms. Reyes**

Important events for **October:**

- MEPA R/W for NEW ELLs and other students that did not take it in the spring: **October 25-26 and October 27 is the makeup date**
- MELA-O for NEW ELLs and those who did not take it in the spring: **October 26**

Homework from the ELL Social Studies, Oral Communication and English classes is a continuation of the work and learning that occurs in school. It should not take more than 30 minutes per class to complete on a daily basis. If your child is having difficulties in completing the assigned work, please call Mrs. Ortiz (362-1850 leave a message) or Ms. Reyes (362-1942). Also, after school help is available.

ELE Homework Club

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

Where: C-12 (Mrs. 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, tissue and boxes of pencils. Your donations are greatly appreciated!

Other Important Details

FSP

Clubs Fundraising Update

Thanks to all who have donated to the Family-School Partnership to support After-School Clubs. A sincere thank you goes out to the 1 in 5 family who have donated to this worthy program. While we are getting ever closer to the amount needed to support After School activities, we are still **\$2000 short** of the amount needed to sustain these programs all year. If you have not donated yet and would like to do so, please give as generously as you can. Checks can be made out to ARMS and returned to school or mailed to ARMS Family School Partnership, 170 Chestnut Street, Amherst, MA 01002. Thank you!

FSP Leadership Needed

The FSP is still looking for board members for this school year- most in need is a chair. Working with those who have already stepped up, we can share the load and make this an amazing school year full of enrichment for ARMS students. For more information, please contact Principal Hayes at hayesm@arps.org.

Library News

Ever wonder what kids are reading today? It's easy to find out about the latest books in our middle school library. All you have to do is visit the library's web page at <http://armslibrary.wikispaces.com/> and scroll to the bottom of the page. There you will see a rotating display of the newest titles in our library. Books in series seem to be especially popular right now. Here are a few examples:

Death Cloud (2011) by Andrew Lane

The young adult novel *Death Cloud* by Andrew Lane is the first book in the *Sherlock Holmes: The Legend Begins* series, which is authorized by Arthur Conan Doyle's estate. In 1868, Sherlock Holmes is a 14-year-old boarding school student spending a holiday at his uncle's home Farnham. There, young Sherlock is tutored by Amyus Crowe, an American who also becomes the boy's mentor in the field of detection. When two local residents die of plague-like symptoms, Sherlock suspects that the victims were murdered. He follows a trail of clues that leads to an evil criminal with an equally wicked plot.

Behemoth (2010) by Scott Westerfeld

The second novel in Scott Westerfeld's *Leviathan* series, *Behemoth* continues the adventures of Alek, a prince being hunted by Germans in an alternative version of World War I Europe. Hoping to avoid capture, he books passage on the ship called Leviathan, where he meets Deryn, a young man harboring a shocking secret. Together, Alek and Deryn must join forces to take on the enemy, which gets stronger and more technologically advanced with each passing day. *Behemoth* includes illustrations by Keith Thompson.

Fire World (2011) by Chris d'Lacey

Twelve-year-olds David and Rosanna have just arrived in the world of Copernica, where they find firebirds housed within a primeval museum. After inadvertently hurting one of the creatures, David and Rosanna are drawn into an epic battle between good and evil. As they ally themselves with the firebirds, they hear tell of dragons--dragons that just might come to their aid and help them battle the forces of darkness. *Fire World* is the sixth installment in Chris D'Lacey's *Last Dragon Chronicles* series.

Sapphique (2010) by Catherine Fisher

Sapphique is the sequel to author Catherine Fisher's *Incarceron*, a young adult fantasy novel featuring Finn, a prisoner of an alternate prison land called Incarceron, and his cohorts Claudia, the warden of Incarceron's daughter, and prisoners Attia and Keiro. In this second novel, Attia and Keiro learn of a magical glove

owned by Sapphique, the only prisoner who has ever escaped Incarceron. Soon they learn who may have the glove and hatch a plot to get it themselves. In the meantime, the Prison gets ready to trap its prisoners forever, unless someone can stop it first.

Book descriptions from *Books & Authors* Gale. 4 Oct 2011.

Dates to Remember:

Thursday, October 20 – Picture Retakes

Friday, November 4 – FSP Coffee with the Principal

Thursday, November 10 – Late Start Thursday

Friday, November 11 – Veteran's Day – No School



UNICEF SOCIAL



for Amherst Regional Middle School Students
Friday, October 28, 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. The financial benefit will go to UNICEF, ART CLUB activities, and Team Quabbin. 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 Tara Kuzmeskus at kuzmeskust@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.**



FEDERATION FOR CHILDREN
WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

BASIC RIGHTS

in Special Education

WORKSHOP

The Basic Rights workshop provides families with an introduction to their rights and responsibilities under:

- **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**
- **Massachusetts Special Education Law and**
- **No Child Left Behind (NCLB).**

This workshop is designed to help parents learn to be effective partners with their child's school to decide their child's eligibility for special education, and to plan, make decisions and monitor their child's progress in school.

Date: Monday, October 24, 2011

**Location: Amherst Regional Middle School
Professional Development Center**

Time: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Contact: Jennifer Ryan @ 413-362-1834

A presenter from the Federation for Children with Special Needs will conduct this workshop. Federation workshops are free to parents and open to the public. You are welcome to attend any workshop in or outside of your immediate community.

Please register in advance through your local contact person or phone the Federation's receptionist at **617-236-7210** or **800-331-0688 ext. 0** or go online at <http://fcsn.org/pti/workshops/home.php>

Come Join Us!

The Federation for Children with Special Needs, supported in part by grant #H328M040001 from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs and the Massachusetts Department of Education.



FEDERATION FOR CHILDREN
WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Derechos Basicos

Este taller ofrece a las familias una introducción sobre sus derechos y responsabilidades bajo: la ley IDEA, la ley de educación especial de Massachussets y la ley Que Ningún Niño se Quede Atrás (NCLB). Este taller esta diseñado para ayudar a los padres a aprender como ser compañeros efectivos con la escuela, decidir la elegibilidad del niño para educación especial, como planear, tomar decisiones y supervisar el progreso educacional de su niño.

- **El Acta de Educación para Individuos con Discapacidades**
 - **La ley de Educación Especial de Massachussets y**
 - **Que Ningún Niño se Quede Atrás (NCLB)**

Fecha: Lunes, 24 de octubre 2011

**Lugar: Escuela Intermedia Regional de Amherst
Centro de Desarrollo Profesional**

Hora: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Persona de Contacto: Jennifer Ryan @ 413-362-1834

Una presentadora de la Federación para Niños con Necesidades Especiales llevara a caba este taller. Los talleres de la Federación son gratuitos para los padres y abierto para el publico. Son bienvenidos para que asistan a cualquier taller, dentro o fuera de su comunidad.

Porfavor de registrarse por adelantado . llame a la Recepcionista de la Federación al 617-236-7210 o al 800-331-0688 ext. 0 y visite el www.fcsn.org/pti/workshops/home/php

Ven y Acompañenos!

The Federation for Children with Special Needs, supported in part by grant #H328M040001 from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs and the Massachusetts Department of Education.



Dear Parents:

Welcome to the start of a new school year and another year of A+ School Rewards. Starting October 7, 2011 through March 29, 2012, Amherst Regional Middle School will have the opportunity to earn cash through Stop & Shop A+ School Rewards Program.

All you have to do is:

Log on to www.stopandshop.com/aplus to register online

OR

Dial 1-877-275-2758 to register your card over the phone

After you register your card, each shopping trip at Stop & Shop using your Stop & Shop Card earns CASH for our school! Each month, the amount of CASH awarded will be updated on the Stop & Shop website. You can track the amount of points you earn for our school by checking your grocery receipt and online when you create an account at www.stopandshop.com. Our school will receive a check at the end of the program. The money can be used for any of our school's educational needs.

Remember, even if you registered your card last year, you must re-register this year for our school to receive credit. Attending to this simple process makes a HUGE difference to our school. We need your support.

Please be sure to register your card to benefit Amherst Regional Middle School using ID #05171.

Also, don't forget to encourage your friends and relatives to do the same.

It could mean the world to our children.



Estimados Padres :

Bienvenidos al inicio de un nuevo ciclo escolar y un nuevo año de A+ School Rewards. A partir del 7 de octubre de 2011 hasta el 29 de Marzo de 2012, Amherst Regional Middle School tendrá la oportunidad de ganar dinero en efectivo a través del programa A+ School Rewards.

Lo único que tienen que hacer es:

- Entrar a www.Stopandshop.com/aplus para hacer la registraci3n de su tarjeta en lnea
- Llamar al 1-877-275-2758 para hacer la registraci3n de su tarjeta por tel3fono

Despu3s de registrar su tarjeta, ¡cualquier compra que hagan en una tienda Stop & Shop usando su Tarjeta Stop & Shop resultará en DINERO EN EFECTIVO para nuestra escuela! El monto del DINERO EN EFECTIVO será actualizado todos los meses en el sitio web de Stop & Shop. Usted puede chequear los puntos que ha acumulado en su recibo o cuando establezca una cuenta en www.stopandshop.com. Nuestra escuela recibirá un cheque cuando termine el programa y el dinero puede ser utilizado para cualquiera de las necesidades educativas de nuestra escuela.

Recuerden que para que nuestra escuela reciba el crédito, deben registrar su tarjeta nuevamente este año, aún si lo hicieron el año pasado. Completar este simple proceso resultará en una ENORME diferencia para nuestra escuela. Necesitamos su apoyo. Asegúrese de registrar su tarjeta Stop & Shop que beneficie a Amherst Regional Middle School usando el N° de ID 05171.

No se olvide de alentar a sus amigos y parientes a hacer lo mismo.

Nuestros niños se merecen lo mejor del mundo.