



# ARHS Parent Center Newsletter



Volume 7 Issue 6

April 2007

## Lots of Activity



We have been busy here at the Parent Center.

In March the Parent Center hosted a **Substance Abuse Prevention Workshop** for parents. The presentation, given by Lauri Turkovsky, was very informative with some practical suggestions for parents. For more: [www.arhsparentcenter.org/Substance-Abuse-Workshop-2007](http://www.arhsparentcenter.org/Substance-Abuse-Workshop-2007)

The wonderful Guide to the **Amherst-Pelham Regional School District Budget** was printed and distributed during the first week of March. See more about this inside.

In February the Parent Center hosted an **Internet Safety Workshop**, which was very well received and attended. For more: [www.arhsparentcenter.org/Internet-Safety-Workshop-2007](http://www.arhsparentcenter.org/Internet-Safety-Workshop-2007)

Budget concerns continue. As you know, the Select Board has placed a \$2.5M override question on the May 1 election ballot. If that passes, about 40% of the severe cuts can be restored in 2008. If it does not pass, the 1% budget caps must be met and all the cuts will have to be made.

We urge you to stay informed on this issue of critical concern to the schools.

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The mission of the Parent Center is primarily to be a helpful link between parents and ARHS.

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Please contact us with your questions or concerns:

[www.arhsparentcenter.org/contact](http://www.arhsparentcenter.org/contact)

## Next Parent Center Meeting Wednesday, April 11

The next meeting of the Amherst Regional High School Parent Center will be on Wednesday, April 11, 2007 in Room 13 at the High School.

### 7:00pm - 7:30pm | Business Meeting

In this portion of the meeting we will briefly review our list of activities and projects.

### 7:30pm - 8:30pm | General Meeting

In this portion of the meeting we will cover specific topics in depth.

Come to the Business Meeting also if you want to learn about all that ARHSPC is doing, and perhaps volunteer to work on one of the activities or projects.

## Attention Senior Parents!

The **2007 Senior Graduation Party** will be held on Friday, June 8th after the graduation ceremonies at the UMass Football Practice Fields. Planning is well underway but we need every volunteer that we can conscript! Please be sure to return the recruitment forms that you receive in the mail as soon as possible.

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday, April 4th at 7:30 in the ARHS Parent Center** (Room 13). We will be discussing Security, the question of whether or not to invite sophomores, and reports from various committees. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The remaining meetings will be as follows:

**Tuesday, May 8th at 7:30 pm** in the ARHS Parent Center

**Wednesday, May 30th at 7:30 pm** in the ARHS Parent Center

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the co-chairs: Jeanie Forray at 253-3313, [jforray@comcast.net](mailto:jforray@comcast.net) or Anne Stanek at 253-5051, [annestanek@hotmail.com](mailto:annestanek@hotmail.com).

## Attention Junior Parents

The class of 2007 needs your help. The annual "All Night Graduation Party" is happening on June 8th, at the UMass Football Practice Field. The tradition is to ask Junior Parents to help with picking up and receiving donated food for the party. This is a good change to get to know how this events works for your Childs senior year.

If you are available to help out on June 8th for a 2 hr shift between 12:30 and 10:00PM please contact Chris Denison at 253-7231, or email [cmdenison@att.net](mailto:cmdenison@att.net)



## Amherst Pelham Special Education Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

If you are interested in receiving the E-Newsletter, *Highlights in Special Education*, email [amherstpelhamspedpac@comcast.net](mailto:amherstpelhamspedpac@comcast.net) *Highlights* gives updates on what is happening in our area for workshops and other events for special education.

### April 25th, 7-9 PM, College is it Possible?

How to ensure that college is an option for your child with Disabilities.\* Speaker: Maureen Conroy, Director of Office for Students with Disabilities and Deaf Services at Holyoke Community College

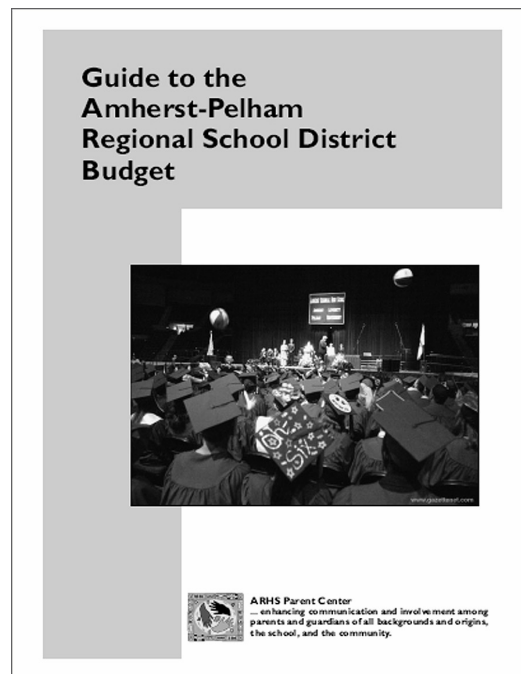
Location: ARMS library Time: 7-9 PM

Another great workshop, which is very motivating about the choices available to all children for college and what we as parents can do along the way to ensure that college will be a choice for them if they want it. Come regardless of the age of your child, it is never to early to hear this information. College needs to be in your long range goals for your child, if you want it to be a option for them.

For more information contact: Gail at [amherstpelhamspedpac@comcast.net](mailto:amherstpelhamspedpac@comcast.net) or 256-0023

## Parent Center Guide to the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District Budget

The Parent Center has published the 2007 Guide to the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District Budget. This guide was printed and was mailed to all ARHS families during the week of March 5, 2007.



An excerpt from the guide:

"Excellent schools are critical to our children's success and to the stability of our community. Effective advocacy requires a solid understanding of the ways our schools are funded and the impact of that funding on education. As parents, guardians, or caregivers, each of us needs to understand how education is financed and how the money is spent so that we can help our elected officials allocate funds in ways that result in the best possible education for our children."

Please see the link below for a PDF version: [www.arhsparentcenter.org/Budget-Guide-2007](http://www.arhsparentcenter.org/Budget-Guide-2007)

Many thanks to Mary Kersell and Jeanie Forray from the Parent Center for undertaking this project - they did a fantastic job!

## News From Study Circles

As many of you already know, Study Circles of Amherst has conducted dialogues on race(ism) and class(ism) in our community for the past five years. During that period, over one hundred-fifty adults-- parents, teachers and administrators participated in at least one dialogue group. As a result, valuable relationships formed, and actions ideas for the enrichment of our schools and community commenced. Our school administration also recognized this effort as advantageous to our students' learning experience.

Over the last two years small groups of students participated in dialogues on these social justice issues either after school or during one session of a directed study. For their efforts these students received ALPs credit.

Additionally, they learned valuable skills that give them an advantage at school, in the workplace and as they move through their college experience.

Last Spring, a small group of students participated in a training program designed to develop their dialogue leadership skills. As group leaders they can conduct dialogues circles with new student groups. Operating in teams, with an adult advisor, these students are preparing to conduct Cross Cultural Conversations during one directed study session, once per week over second and third trimester.

If you would like to be included in a Study Circle or want more information you may contact: Jackie Wolf at

549-2958 or Kathleen Anderson at 256-1583. You may also want to visit the Study Circles website at <http://www.studycircles.org/en/index.aspx>

## Next RaDAR Group Meeting Wednesday, April 25

The next meeting of the RaDAR Groups will be on Wednesday, April 25, ARHS, Parent Center Rm. 13, 7 – 8:30 p.m. For more on the RaDAR Group, see:

<http://www.arhsparentcenter.org/RaDAR>

## Amherst Education Foundation

The Amherst Education Foundation (formerly Amherst Area Education Alliance) has launched a new web site:

[www.amhersteducationfoundation.org](http://www.amhersteducationfoundation.org)



If you have fundraising ideas for ARHS that might be appropriate to post on the AEF web site please contact us:

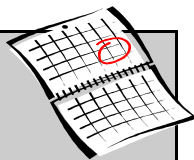
[www.arhsparentcenter.org/contact](http://www.arhsparentcenter.org/contact)

## Sign Up For ENews From ARHSParentCenter.org



If you have not already done so, please sign up to receive news from us by email here:

[www.arhsparentcenter.org](http://www.arhsparentcenter.org)

**Mark Your Calendar**

2<sup>nd</sup> Term Report Cards Distributed  
Tuesday, March 27

Asian Week  
Monday, March 26 – Friday, March 30

Parent Center Meeting  
Wednesday, April 11, 7pm

Late Arrival Day  
Thursday, April 12

Faculty & Staff Talent Show  
Thursday, April 12, 7:30pm

Spring Vacation  
Monday, April 16 – Friday April 20

RaDAR Group meeting  
Wednesday, April 25, 7pm

DTE Spring Concert  
Friday & Sat, April 27 & 28 6pm

Earth Week Events  
Monday, April 30 – Friday, May 4

Student Talent Show  
Thursday, May 3, 7pm

3<sup>rd</sup> Term Progress Reports Distributed  
Thursday, May 10

**ARHS Information**

Don't forget to check the ARHS school web site, which has lots of information on it, including announcements, directory and calendar:

[www.arps.org/hs/](http://www.arps.org/hs/)

Link to daily announcements:

[www.arps.org/hs/News/announcements.html](http://www.arps.org/hs/News/announcements.html)

Amherst Regional High School  
21 Mattoon Street  
Amherst, MA 01002

Main: (413) 362-1700

Fax: (413) 549-9704

CEEB/ACT Code: 220-015

School Cancellation Line: 362-1898

Athletic Events Cancellation Line: 362-1798

Please check the ARHS online calendar for the latest information.

Link to the ARHS online calendar:

<http://www.arps.org/HS/Calendar/>