



# ARHS Parent Center Newsletter



Volume 7 Issue 7

May 2007

## Spring Is Here



By the time you read this we will know what happened in the May 1 election. As you know, the Select Board placed a \$2.5M override question on the May 1 election ballot.

If that passed, about 40% of the severe budget 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.

The school department has published a detailed list of cuts (and restorations if the override passed) here:

<http://www.arps.org/BudgetInformation/RegionalBudget/FY08cutsandadds.htm>

General school budget information for the Regional Schools (High School and Middle School) can be found here:

<http://www.arps.org/BudgetInformation/RegionalBudget/>

We'll do our best to update you on this issue on our web site:

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

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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, May 9

The next meeting of the Amherst Regional High School Parent Center will be on Wednesday, May 9, 2007 in Room 13 at the High School from 7pm to 8:30pm

## Important Information For Senior Parents/Guardians

### REGARDING THE ALL-NIGHT GRADUATION PARTY

(Not a school sponsored event)

The annual Senior Party takes place following graduation on Friday, June 8th from 10 pm to 6 am with entertainment, food, and activities all night. Attendees are dropped off at the party and driven home by adult volunteers. Every senior may register to attend at no charge and may invite one guest for \$10. It takes hundreds of volunteers and thousands of dollars to provide a safe environment for our seniors to celebrate this important milestone in their lives. Your involvement is essential!

The volunteer and contribution form was sent to every senior household in March. A \$30 contribution per student is requested but contributions of any amount are welcome. If you have not already done so, please return your volunteer form and/or contribution to Ruth Harms, 140 Blackberry Lane, Amherst, MA 01002. Registration forms will be mailed to all graduating seniors in May.

### Important Deadlines:

Deadline for senior to register with a guest:  
June 1

Deadline for senior to register (with \$25 late fee):  
June 7 (end of school)

No guests will be registered after the June 1 deadline.

No registrations will be accepted after the end of the school day on June 7th.

If you have any questions, please contact either of the Senior Party coordinators, Jeanie Forray ([jforray@comcast.net](mailto:jforray@comcast.net), 253-3313) or Anne Stanek ([annestanek@hotmail.com](mailto:annestanek@hotmail.com) 253-5051). The next meeting of the coordinating committee is Tuesday, May 8th at 7:30 pm in Room 13 at the High School. All senior parents/guardians are welcome!

## 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.

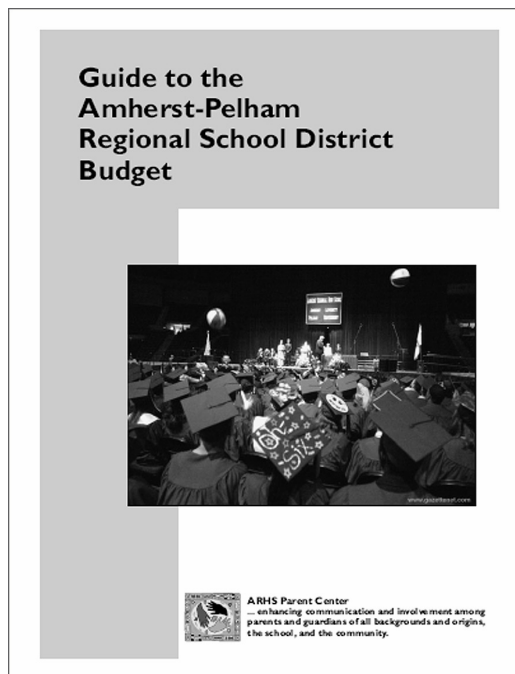
If you are available to help out on June 8th for a 2 hr shift between 12:30 and 10:00PM please contact Chris Denison at 253-7231, or email [cmdenison@att.net](mailto:cmdenison@att.net)

## 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

Study Circles is excited about the students who participated in the facilitator training during second trimester. Eleven students in grades 9 through 12 spent twelve weeks in dialogue, viewed several films and experienced a simulation designed to visually demonstrated how so called racial differences make differences in our life chances.

In addition to the student group at ARHS a group of parents and administrators from Marks Meadow school participated in dialogue session.

This group talked about issues directly related to the Marks Meadow community.

As we move into the Fall trimester Study Circles student facilitators will have an opportunity to work with their own student group with the assistance of an adult facilitator.

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

Jackie Wolf at 549-2958, Kathleen Anderson at 256-1583 by phone or through Study Circles of Amherst at [amherstvisionkeepers@hotmail.com](mailto:amherstvisionkeepers@hotmail.com)

You may also want to visit the Study Circles website at <http://www.studycircles.org/en/index.aspx> for more details.

### Next RaDAR Group Meeting Wednesday, May 16

The next meet gin of the RaDAR Groups will be on Wednesday, May 16, 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)

### Mark Your Calendar



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

Student Talent Show  
Thursday, May 3, 7pm

Parent Center Meeting  
Wednesday, May 9, 7pm

3rd Term Progress Reports Distributed  
Thursday, May 10

Islam Awareness Week Events  
Monday, May 21 – Wednesday, May 23

RaDAR Group Meeting  
Wednesday, May 16, 7pm

Senior Prom  
Sunday, May 27

Memorial Day – No School  
Monday, May 28

Last Day for Seniors  
Friday, June 1

Graduation  
Friday, June 8

Last Day of School  
Friday, June 15

Please check the ARHS online calendar for the latest information.

Link to the ARHS online calendar:  
<http://www.arps.org/HS/Calendar/>

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