



Pelham Press

Vol. 21, No. 26, April 1, 2011

<http://pe.arps.org>

Happy
April Fool's Day!



Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, March 22-April 6
 Monday, April 4
 Thursday, April 7
 Friday, April 8
 Friday, April 8
 Monday, April 11-13
 Wednesday, April 13
 April 18-April 23
 Friday, April 29

MCAS English Language Arts testing window
 PTO Meeting 6:30 pm
 School Committee Meeting 6:00 pm
 ARMS Registration Packets due
 PTO Variety Show 7pm
 Kindergarten Registration 9:00-2:00
 Pelham School Open House 7:00-8:00 pm
 Spring Recess
 Annual Lasagne Dinner 6-8 pm



Dear Pelham School Families,

We are very excited to announce that during the month of April, we have an Artist-in-Residence program that launches this upcoming Tuesday with an all-school assembly in which artists Jonathan Keezing and Eshu Bumbus will introduce themselves and their art forms. Jonathan Keezing will be working with kindergarten through second grade to create and use puppetry as a door to folk tales. These classes will include a history of puppetry with pictures and multi-cultural puppets and performance examples. Over the course of the residency, students will also create an original folktale, which will be performed as a puppet skit as culminating activity. Grades 3 - 6 will meet with Eshu Bumpus focusing on storytelling. Sessions will include classic cultural stories, historical/ cultural references and story games to teach creative writing in a way that helps students access their ideas in an organized manner. Students will create original folk tales and each grade level will have a specific focus. Classes, and individual students will visit each other to share their creations, and the artists will also visit each other's focus classrooms. We thank the PTO for co-sponsoring this program.

Pelham School does not have a formal cell phone policy included in the handbook, but recent incidents have alerted us to the need to articulate a cell phone policy for students. This policy will be included in next year's school handbook and is set as follows:

Students are not permitted to use cell phones during the school day (8:40-3:05). Cell phones must be off during the school day. If visible or being used during the school day, they will be confiscated and returned only to parents or guardians. Students may use cell phones after school to contact parents/guardians with teachers permission. No photos may be taken in school using cell phones or cameras without permission. We have an office phone that students are allowed to use to contact their parents if necessary during the day. We encourage parents to communicate through school staff to leave messages for their child throughout the day so as not to disturb the classroom learning environment.

In the fall, a Later Start Time Task Force was charged with studying the benefits of, and potential obstacles to, changing the daily schedule to include a later start time for secondary students in the Amherst-Pelham Regional Schools. They were asked to consider the effect such a change would have on employee contracts, transportation at both the elementary and secondary level, and after-school activities for students. Input from all stakeholder groups, including students, parents/guardians, and district faculty and staff, is an important component of the task force's research. Pelham School parents are encouraged to share their thoughts at :

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Laterstarttimeelementaryparents> .

Sincerely,

Lisa Desjarlais

Survival Center Food Drive!

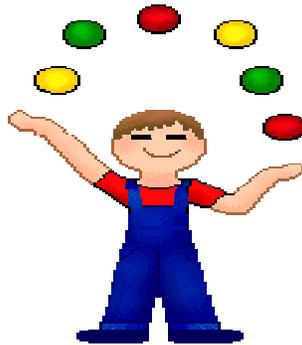
Dear Parents,

The first grade is running a food drive to support the Survival Center of Amherst. We are finishing a unit on Homes and Families with a short focus on Homelessness. We have learned about different ways children can become involved in their communities to help others. Please feel free to donate any non-perishable food item to the first grade before April 15.

Thank you for your help.

Ms. Shaw - First Grade Intern

The Annual Pelham PTO Sponsored Variety Show



Friday, April 8th 2011 from 7:00 – 9:00pm.

The Annual **Pelham PTO Sponsored Variety Show** is just around the corner! Come and sing, dance, act, juggle, recite, play, and **display your amazing talents**. **All are welcome**, including your family, to participate in **one act**.

Practice sessions will be offered on Monday April 4th from 3 to 4 in the art room and on Thursday April 7th from 3 to 4 in the gymnasium. These sessions are not mandatory, just an opportunity to rehearse if you feel you need to. Parents Please Note: If your child is in **After School** then they may rehearse under the supervision of the After School Staff. However, if they are not, then a parent or **designated chaperone** must be in attendance.

Refreshments available for sale during intermission, courtesy of the PTO.

In order to participate, please **fill out the attached sheet** and return it to Ms. (Lennie) Ware at After School or to Mrs. Scott in the main office.

Sign-ups will be accepted until Wednesday, April 6th.

Questions?

Contact Tracy Farnham @ (413) 531-7641 or via email tgfarnham@gmail.com

Admission: \$2 per person or \$5 per family

Please Note: On the night of the Variety Show All Children must be chaperoned.

PELHAM PTO
VARIETY SHOW
SIGN-UP SHEET

Name of Participant(s):

Description of Act:

Name of Act:

How long does your act take? (Approximately):

Do you need any of the following equipment to perform your act?
(Please circle all that apply)

Microphone

Podium

Extension Cord

Helpers (If so, how many?)

Anything else we need to know?

Reminders: All talent show participants may perform in only one act during the course of the evening.

Please turn this in to Ms. Lennie Ware at after school or to Ms. Scott in the main office.

Mangia!  Lasagna!

Pelham School's 5th and 6th Graders request the honor of your presence at their Annual Lasagna Dinner

When: Friday April 29th, 2011, 6 pm – 8 pm

Where: Pelham Elementary School Cafeteria

What: Lasagna (cheese, veggie or meat), beverages, salad, bread, and dessert

Cost: Adults--\$9.00 Children Under 12--\$6.00

Please return ticket order forms by April 15, 2011 to the Pelham School Office. Pick up your tickets at the school or at the dinner. Proceeds help fund the annual 6th grade Nature's Classroom Trip.

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Please complete the order form below and return to the Pelham School office no later than April 15, 2011.

Ticket Order Form:

Adult Tickets Cheese _____ Veggie _____ Meat _____

Child Tickets Cheese _____ Veggie _____ Meat _____

Make checks payable to the Pelham 5th/6th Grade Fund

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Mangia!  Lasagna!

Community Notes

LSSE April Vacation Camp

Critters are the fun focus of the April vacation camp “Lions and Tigers and Bears” sponsored by Amherst LSSE.

Whether large or small with feathers or furs, the critters will visit the camp or students will visit them at the Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory or the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art.

While the focus is on animals, other activities, such as sports and arts and crafts, are scheduled to keep the youngsters engaged and active.

The camp, for children in grades K-6, will be held April 19-22 at the Wildwood Elementary School from 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Children should bring a healthy lunch and two healthy snacks per day.

A fee subsidy for income-eligible Amherst families is available. Residents interested in the tuition waver, up to 100 percent, should apply as soon as possible. Fee subsidies are also available for the LSSE summer camps that begin in June.

For information call Stacey Lecuivre, LSSE Youth Program Director at 259-3191 or visit: www.lsse.org

PELHAM'S EXCEPTIONAL MEETINGHOUSE

The Pelham Historical Society will meet on Monday, April 11, at 7:00 p.m. in the Ramsdell Room at the Community Center in Pelham.

Following the meeting, Pelham residents Peg Hepler, Blair Bigelow, and Barbara Jenkins along with Town Archivist Robert Lord Keyes will reveal why historians praise Pelham's unique meetinghouse in the historic town complex at the corner of Amherst Road and Daniel Shays Highway (Route 202). This town hall is one of only ten meetinghouses that survive from four hundred built in New England before 1743.

The public is invited. For more information, call Barbara Jenkins at 253-2929.

Got Drugs?



Do you or your relatives have
a medicine cabinet
full of old medications?

Do you want to help get rid of them **SAFELY?**



BRING THEM TO THE:

FREE COLLECTION DAY

FOR SAFE DISPOSAL • NO QUESTIONS ASKED

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2011
10:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.

locations listed below:

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY

AMHERST - Wildwood School (71 Strong Street)
BELCHERTOWN - Town Commons
CUMMINGTON - Safety Complex
EASTHAMPTON - Easthampton Safety Complex
GRANBY - Granby High School
HATFIELD - Town Hall
NORTHAMPTON - Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School
SOUTHAMPTON - Southampton Town Hall
WARE - Ware High School
WESTHAMPTON - Highway Garage
WORTHINGTON - Town Hall

FRANKLIN COUNTY

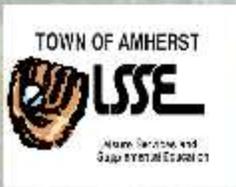
ATHOL - Police Department
BERNARDSTON - Powers Institute
BUCKLAND - Mohawk Regional High School
DEERFIELD - Senior Center
GREENFIELD - Franklin Jail - Main Drop Off Site
HEATH - Fire Station
MONTAGUE - Safety Complex
ORANGE - Police Department
SHELBURNE - Shelburne Highway Garage

ITEMS WE CANNOT ACCEPT:

NO NEEDLES • NO SYRINGES • NO LANCETS • NO THERMOMETERS
NO IV BAGS • NO CHEMO DRUGS • NO LIQUIDS OF ANY TYPE

This event is sponsored by the: Drug Enforcement Administration, District Attorney David Sullivan, Sheriff Robert J. Garvey, Sheriff Christopher Donelan, Your local Police Departments, Department of Public Health, Mass Council on Aging, and the Graphic Communications Department at Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School.





IT'S SOFTBALL SEASON!

Registrations are currently being accepted for spring recreational softball. To register, call LSSE at 259.3065, visit www.lsse.org, or stop by the LSSE offices in the Bangs Community Center.

Amherst Girls' Softball League

Two Divisions (practices and games mid-April through mid-June):

1st-3rd Grade (Instructional with practices on Mon./Wed. evenings @ Groff Park)

4th-6th Grade (Games and practices on Tu/Th. evenings @ MS and HS)

Cost: \$89 (save \$10 if you register before April 1st – deadline extended)

Suburban Softball Tryouts (*12U players are encouraged to play rec league too. Practices don't begin until June*):

- **12U** (cannot turn 13 before 1/1/11): **May 14th & 15th** at MS field 12:00-2:00pm both days
- **14U** (cannot turn 15 before 1/1/11): **May 14th & 15th** at MS field 2:00-4:00pm both days

Softball Players' Clinic:

Saturday, April 9th: 10am-12pm @ Amherst HS Softball Field (Community Field)

Rain location: ARHS Gym

Cost: \$5/player due at field (proceeds to benefit the ARHS Varsity Girls' Softball team).

Instructors: Kacey Schmitt, ARHS Varsity Softball Coach and current players

What to Bring: glove, water bottle, and proper footwear (cleats/sneakers if it rains).

QUESTIONS: FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON ANY OF THESE PROGRAMS PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE @ WWW.LSSE.ORG OR CONTACT MARK MIVILLE, SPORTS & RECREATION DIRECTOR, AT 259-3144 OR MIVILLEM@AMHERSTMA.GOV

THIS IS NOT A SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENT

**TOWN OF AMHERST LEISURE SERVICES
YOUTH GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE
2011 REGISTRATION FORM
PLEASE PRINT**

Participant Name: _____ Parent/Guardian: _____
Street: _____ Date of Birth: _____
Town: _____ School: _____
Home Number: _____ Grade (2010/11 school year): ____ Gender: ____
Work Phone : _____ Cell Phone: _____
E-mail: _____
Emergency Contact (***other than a Parent/Guardian***): Name: _____
Phone (H) _____ (C) _____ (W) _____

IF YOUR CHILD WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST **ONE FRIEND**, PLEASE DO SO HERE: ONLY **ONE** FRIEND MAY BE REQUESTED: _____
IF YOUR CHILD WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST **A COACH**, PLEASE DO SO HERE: ONLY **ONE** COACH MAY BE REQUESTED: _____
THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT YOUR CHILD WILL BE PLACED WITH FRIEND OR COACH REQUESTED!

Registration Fee: \$89.00 \$ **89.00** (Save \$10 before APRIL 1st)
Non-Amherst Resident Fee: \$10.00 \$ _____
Additional Contribution* \$ _____
Total: \$ _____

*The friends of Amherst Youth Softball are collecting additional contributions to be used for a scholarship fund for players that do not live in Amherst that need financial assistance.

Payment Type: Check (payable to Town of Amherst)
CIRCLE ONE: DISCOVER, VISA or MASTERCARD Acct. No. _____-_____-_____-_____
Expiration date _____ Signature _____
Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Office Use Only

2010 Team _____ 2011 Team _____

This is not a school sponsored program.



The 4th annual
Fund Raising Fun

GO, Kids Art, GO!

Kids
Art
Exhibit
April 2-30
2011

celebrating the artist in every child !

@ **THE BARNES GALLERY, Leverett Crafts & Arts (LCA)**
13 Montague Rd. Leverett, MA 01054 www.leverettcrafts.org (413) 548-9070

BIG Party Sat. April 9th 12-4pm

Donations at the door raise money for children's arts education.

A day of music, dance, puppets, food, face painting, games, bake sale, raffle, and more..... including Bob Hepner's Carnival Truck!

Featuring.....

Tom Knights-Puppet Show! 1pm

<http://www.tomknight.com/puppet.html>

Celtic Heels-Irish Dance 2:30pm

<http://www.celticheelsdance.com/>

HFCDG-Preschool Presentation 2pm

<http://www.hfcdc.org>

Who'da Funk It-Girls Rock Band 3pm

<http://www.facebook.com>

Sarah Pirtle www.sarahpirtle.com/ Wed. April 13th 7pm

The Heart of a Child-Talking it out. A parent/teacher workshop, w/childcare!

Funded in part by the Union #28 Community Network for Children program a CFCE Grant funded program through the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care

C.L.U.B. night Fri. April 22nd 7pm

Hartsbrook High School

www.hartsbrook.org/high-school

Who Da'Funk It?

www.facebook.com



Get up Get Down

www.youthactioncoalition.org/

Sponsored by:



massculturalcouncil.org

Art exhibit includes the work of Claudia Lefko's Iraqi Children's Art Exchange <http://www.iraqichildrenart.org/>

NOT A SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENT

Fifth Annual Amherst-Pelham Regional Schools Latino Achievement Night

The Fifth Annual Amherst-Pelham Regional Schools Latino Achievement Night will be celebrated on **May 20, 2011** at the Amherst Regional Middle School, located at 170 Chestnut Street in Amherst, Massachusetts. The event will begin at 6:30 and it is open to all families, friends, staff and community members.

For those of you new to this wonderful community event, this celebration was envisioned by a group of families, staff and community members from several surrounding towns and cities, six years ago when our district established the Latino Initiative. Data revealed that, as a group, Latinos were performing at lower levels than other students in our district and a series of recommendations were formulated to address the issue and try to close this achievement gap. One of the strategies suggested was the creation of a community celebration of the achievements of Latino students every year, as it is accustomed in the majority of the countries our students' families come from.

As a true community event, this celebration is open to the public and hundreds of people come to support our students. In addition to celebrating every student who attends the activity by school, certificates are given to students at transition grades (K, 6, 8 and 12) who have excelled in any of the following categories:

Academic Achievement – *This category recognizes excellence and achievement in academic work in all areas.*

Community Spirit – *This category recognizes students who are “all-around great kids”; these students are a positive influence on their peers, are thoughtful, respectful, and inclusive in a variety of settings (class room, clubs, sports, playground, etc.)*

Effort – *This category embodies students who demonstrate hard work, perseverance, determination and a great love of learning.*

Leadership – *This category embodies students who take initiative in one or more of the following areas: academics, sports, clubs and community service (school and family).*

Progress- *This category recognizes students who have shown great improvement in academic subjects, attendance and/or behavior.*

Please contact Mildred Martinez at www.martinezm2@arps.org or by calling (413)362-1871, if you have any questions about the event.