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THE GRAPHIC

Only in the agony of
parting do we look
into the depths of love.
~George Eliot

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Bike Week at ARHS challenges students to reduce carbon footprints

By Surya Ry

During the week of May 17, the Environmental Action Club hosted the Bike Commute Week of 2010 at ARHS. Bike Commute Week challenged participants to change their mode of transportation to something a little more environmentally friendly. Hoping to get around 25 people to bike, the Environmental Action Club instead received around 40 pledges to bike. People who would otherwise take a bus or drive their cars instead rode their bikes to school.

The goal of Bike Week was to “get people to bike more often, raise awareness about bike safety, and about the advantages of biking,” said Jonathan Simonds, '13, an organizer of Bike Week and member of the Environmental Action Club. “Biking is good for you, and good for the world. What more could you want out of a mode of transportation? It saves CO₂, gives you exercise, and relieves stress,” he said.

Bike Week attracted many students, from those who never biked to school before, to the usual bike riders. Students and teachers alike were inspired to challenge themselves and give it a try, even if only committing for a couple of days.

Matt Hixon, '11, was inspired to participate. “It was a way to challenge myself and also participate in something positive,” said Hixon. “I biked 4 out of the 5 days. I would usually travel by car,” he said.

Biking to school may be a little more difficult than expected.

It is hard to get up in the morning and then just get on a bike and go. A car can be much easier and more convenient. “I didn't bike every day, because I have to bring my clarinet to school. I biked two of the days, and would have biked more if I didn't have so much to carry,” said Leah Alper, '13.

However, the students who did decide to ride their bikes to school clearly faced the challenge. The riders fulfilled their purpose of reducing their carbon footprint to zero. “ARHS bikers are saving 390 lbs of CO₂,” said Solomon Goldstein-Rose, '12, another organizer of Bike Week.

Meg Holladay, '10, was a participating rider during Bike Week. Holladay has been biking to school occasionally since eighth grade but, “A lot of times I make excuses not to [bike] because it's hard for me to go out and exercise right after I get up in the morning. Bike Week gave me a reason to actually do it,” she said.

The bikers enjoyed the end of Bike Week at a breakfast hosted early Friday morning on the Amherst Common. “At ARHS, about 50 students and teachers participated, either at the breakfast or through the pledge cards,” said Goldstein-Rose. Afterwards those that attended the breakfast rode to school together. “More people came than I'd expected,” said Holladay. “It was amazing to be part of such a huge caravan of bikers...I wish this many people biked to school every week,” she said.

Congratulations Class of 2010!



Candlewick Press gives ARHS students opportunity to review pre-published books

By Lisa Schrade

Amherst Regional High School students now have the opportunity to be a reviewer in the real publishing world since the library has partnered up with Candlewick Press to participate in the review of pre-published young adult novels.

Students come to the library and select an advanced copy of a book to take home and read. “It is a great privilege to work with such a renowned publishing press, and our students are one of the first people ever to read those books, and to have influence on the editing process,” said Ms. Lomasson, the head librarian at ARHS.

After the students read their book they are asked to submit

an online review by setting up an account under Goodreads.com and joining the ARHS Reviews Candlewick group.

ect seems to be very successful. “We have about 28 books on our shelf and 12 students are already in the process of



Photo by Caitlin Eddings

Ms. Lomasson, head librarian at ARHS, is involved in the Review Project through the Candlewick Press.

reviewing books,” said Ms. Lomasson. Laura Figuerera, '11, is one of the student reviews. “It's really cool. I love to read and it's fun to read those books that haven't been officially published yet,” she said. Students get to keep their book after finishing it and are encouraged to come back for more reading material.

The Review Project gives students the chance to be part of the real publishing world and to be one of the first to read new literature that isn't even on the bookstore shelves yet.