

News_You_Can_Use - PLEASE READ: News You Can Use - December 16, 2010

From: News_You_Can_Use
To: newsyoucanuse
Date: 12/16/2010 12:07 PM
Subject: PLEASE READ: News You Can Use - December 16, 2010

Best Viewed in HTML

Please do not reply this e-mail address. Contact information is included in each news section.

**In This Issue:**

1. ARMS Choral Director David Ranen Selected for Inclusion in the Annual Choral Director Magazine
 2. Updates from the ELE/Intervention Office
 3. Amherst Community Theater's The Wizard of Oz - Complimentary Tickets for Students
 4. Holiday Break Schedule
 5. Do you have any positive news to share?
-

ARMS Choral Director David Ranen Selected for Inclusion in the Annual *Choral Director Magazine*

ARMS Choral Director David Ranen has been selected for inclusion in the annual *Choral Director* magazine "Directors of Note" report. Mr. Ranen was selected for this distinguished honor as the representative for the state of Massachusetts. While his dedication to his students is legendary in the Amherst-Pelham Regional Schools, Mr. Ranen is also being honored for the profound impact he has had on the performing arts program during his 31 years on staff and the 15 years he served as department chair. This is a well-deserved honor for one of our district's dedicated teachers. Congratulations!!

Updates from the ELE/Interventions Office

Regional MSAN Conference - Many distinguished scholars gathered at UMass on December 7 & 8 for a mini-conference to discuss how to best support today's English Language Learners. We had a very successful two days, we learned a lot from participants from other MSAN districts and some of our own staff who facilitated and presented sessions. Our districts' ELL teachers, a group of high school students, representatives from all schools and Central Office staff were in attendance. Our thanks to Maria Geryk and all others who helped make

this a reality.

Bullying and Prevention Plan - Last week we sent our draft of the plan for your review. The district will need to submit a finalized plan to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education later on this month. We hope you can take the time to read this draft and send us any feedback electronically to martinezm2@arps.org by Monday, December 20, 2010.

Please join us for a secondary-focused discussion tonight at the Middle School Auditorium from 7-8:30 PM to learn more about our plan.

If you have any questions please contact Mildred Martinez at martinezm2@arps.org or Marta Guevara at guevaram@arps.org.

Amherst Community Theater - The Wizard of Oz Complimentary Tickets for Students

The Amherst Community Theater's production of The Wizard of Oz will take place January 13-23, 2011. In the past several years they have offered a number of free tickets to students in the Amherst Elementary schools to see the annual January musical which will take place at Bowker Auditorium on the UMass campus. At this point they anticipate being able to send each guidance counselor 20-30 ticket vouchers to be used for students AND the adults that will accompany them. The folks at the Community Theater request that counselors offer these vouchers to students who would especially enjoy a show such as The Wizard of Oz, but due to family financial constraints, would be unable to attend.

If anyone is interested in sponsoring a ticket or two to allow for more of our students to attend (\$10./student ticket), you can send the donation to: Amherst Leisure Services Community Theater, 70 Boltwood Walk, Amherst, MA 01002

If you know of a deserving child that would benefit from this live theater experience please submit his/her name to your guidance counselor before the Holiday break.

Questions can be directed to Barbara Rothenberg at bdrothenberg@comcast.net.

Holiday Break Schedule

Thursday, December 23rd is a full day of school. The holiday break is from December 24th through January 2nd and schools will re-open on Monday, January 3rd. Central Offices will be open December 27, 28, 29 & 30, but will be closed on Dec. 24th and Dec. 31st.

All of us from the Central Offices wish you and your family a safe, peaceful holiday season and a restful break. We look forward to welcoming 2011 with renewed energy and enthusiasm as we move into the second half of the school year.

Do You Have Any Positive News to Share?

If you have any positive news to share about yourself or a colleague we would love to give recognition by sharing it with faculty and staff system-wide. Please send any information to Sharon Gross at grosss@arps.org. Thank you!

