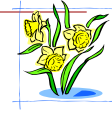


*News You Can Use*  
 Newsletter

HAPPY SPRING!



**March 21, 2011**

**Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Awards**

**Congratulations to the recipients of the Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award for 2011!**

Laurie Hickson, Kindergarten Teacher	Fort River Elementary
Michael Lawrence-Riddell, English Teacher	Amherst Regional Middle School
Jane Mudie, Math Teacher and Department Head	Amherst Regional High School
Nick Shaw, Science & Performing Arts Teacher	Amherst Regional High School
Lucia Spiro, ELL Teacher	Crocker Farm Elementary

These teachers will be honored at a celebration at the Log Cabin on May 4, 2011 and will receive several gifts from the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation.

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**403(b) Plan OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD  
 (for all new enrollments and changes)**

**March 18-31, 2011**

For new accounts please complete the following steps:

1. Select vendor from approved list.
2. Establish an account.
3. Enter your new account number on the MidAmerica Salary Reduction Agreement.)
4. Submit the completed form and submit it to the Payroll Office.

Please log on to [www.arps.org/employees](http://www.arps.org/employees) for a current list of approved vendors and forms.

If you have any questions please contact:

Maggie Jaeger- (413) 362-1895 or [jaegerm@arps.org](mailto:jaegerm@arps.org)  
 Joan Chamberland - (413) 362-1819 or [chamberlandj@arps.org](mailto:chamberlandj@arps.org)  
 Rachel Bowen - (413) 362-1808 or [bowenr@arps.org](mailto:bowenr@arps.org)



**Dates to Remember**

**April 18-22**  
 Spring Break

**May 30**  
 No School  
 Memorial Day

**June 23**  
 Last Day of School!

## **First Annual Technology Conference and Exposition**

Sponsored by the Technology in Education Partnership (TEP)  
and the Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative

**When:** April 7, 2011

**Where:** Baystate Health Whitney Avenue Conference Center  
361 Whitney Avenue, Holyoke, MA

**FOR:** Teachers, Media Specialists, Administrators & Technical Support personnel

Keynote: Alan November

Luncheon: Jim Moulton

The mission of the Technology in Education Partnership is to plan, implement and sustain the development of appropriate technologies and electronic information resources in order to promote successful teaching and learning in the pre-elementary, elementary, and secondary educational institutions of member organizations. The theme of this conference will be the use of technology in our schools.

**Anyone interested in attending should contact Jerry Champagne at [jchamp@arps.org](mailto:jchamp@arps.org) as soon as**

## **Procedures for Sending Email to Large Groups**

Proper procedures for sending email to large groups

1. **Obtain permission from building administrator!**
2. *Never CC everyone.*
3. Put your address in the To: field
4. Put everyone else in BCC: including any of the AllStaffXX groups.

By placing recipients in BCC: you avoid the situation where email replies are unnecessarily sent to all recipients but they are instead sent back to the email originator.

Looking for new teaching materials and information about American History? Visit the Teaching American History website at [www.teachinghistory.org](http://www.teachinghistory.org) or sign-up for their monthly e-newsletter at <http://www.teachinghistory.org/subscribe>.

You can also request a free Historical Thinking poster at <http://teachinghistory.org/nhec-blog/24174>.

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## Summer Professional Development

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### PROMYS for TEACHERS — Secondary Mathematics

**Promys for Teachers** is designed to support current efforts in Massachusetts to enhance problem-solving and open-ended exploration in secondary school mathematics classrooms. PROMYS engages middle and high school teachers in an intensive experience of mathematical exploration. Over the course of six weeks, PROMYS teachers develop, through problem-solving, many classical results in number theory. This experience is enriched by a supportive community of other teachers, high school students, graduate students, and research faculty. The program fosters new insights into the nature of mathematical investigation as participants practice the habits of mind that are the core of creative mathematics. Academic year workshops help teachers translate the summer experience into fundamental change in their own classrooms. [For more information about this program or to register please see click here.](#)

### Northeastern University Summer Institute Series 2011 K-12 Teachers

Enrich your mind, refresh your perspectives, and invigorate your teaching at the Summer Institute Series 2011. Offered by Northeastern's College of Professional Studies, the content-rich courses are designed to deliver results—enabling you to return to the classroom with new ideas. Whether you are seeking re-licensure, wish to satisfy credit requirements, or want to address a specific teaching challenge, the Summer Institute Series 2011 can help you reach your goal. [For more information please see the full brochure.](#) Or go to [Northeastern University's Summer Institute Series website.](#)

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## 2011 Youth Heroism Award

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The Amherst Human Rights Commission has, as its prime purpose, to promote a community of respect of all people and to honor the many ways that we are diverse. They also hope to promote attitudes of compassion and concern for our neighbor. To help encourage these values in our children, they have initiated the Human Rights Commission Youth Heroism Award, an annual recognition of Amherst's children. It is the Commission's intention to seek, among our children, those who have shown a special gift, one that comes not from the mind, or physical talents; but, from the heart, of our ability to love and care for one another.

This will be the eighth year that the Human Rights Commission has initiated this award. At least three awards will be given, one for a child of elementary school age, one for a middle school child, and the third for a young person in high school. If more than one child is deserving of this award in each age group, more than one award will be presented. **Nominations are being sought for children who have demonstrated acts of kindness, unselfishness, and/or community service, either within their families, their schools, or the community.** This is not a "good citizenship" award that honors children who have never misbehaved or have achieved perfect school attendance. ***They are especially looking for children who have demonstrated social courage.***

[2011 Youth Heroism Award nomination forms are available by clicking here](#), or you your main office will have paper copies available. Please be sure to have your building principal or administrator approve the nomination before submitting it to Sharon Gross at Central Office. **Nominations are due by May 11th.**

If you have any questions please contact Sharon Gross at [grosss@arps.org](mailto:grosss@arps.org) or at 362-1810.

## ARHS Girls Basketball Wins Western Mass Championship

**Western Mass Champions!** Congratulations to the ARHS Girls Basketball team for their decisive win over Longmeadow in the championship game on Saturday, March 12. The Hurricanes are coached by Christal Murphy, who was named Coach of the Year in 2010.

In the state semi-final game on Tuesday March 15, the Hurricanes defeated Central Mass. champ Algonquin 49-45 in overtime. At the final game to decide the state championship, the Hurricanes put up a good fight against reigning state champ Andover, but Andover prevailed 61-51.



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### Black Sheep Employee Discount—No Teacher Left Behind Card

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The Black Sheep Deli has added six new breakfast sandwiches to their menu, and so are expanding their discount offering for the “No Teacher Left Behind Card” to include these sandwiches. Buy any breakfast sandwich and get any coffee drink for 1/2 price.