

April 8, 2010

WILDWOOD WINDOW

A Walk in Wildwood: News from the Principal

What wonderful weather this early spring has brought us! It provided much relief after some grueling testing sessions. As of yesterday, all the students have completed the Language Arts MCAS – congratulations to all of them and thanks to the teachers and staff who helped with all the extra logistics of this test.

I am proud to announce that Wildwood's Maury Bohan is a recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award from the Grinspoon Foundation. Maury is a highly valued professional and a leader in the school. As we honored her at a meeting, Ms. Bohan stated that any of her colleagues could have won such an honor in such a strong professional community. I echo her praise for our strong community and extend it to the other Amherst Schools from which many strong teachers will be joining us for the fall.

This week we also concluded the second part of our on-site Teacher's College training in Writing Workshop with Staff Developer Shanna Schwartz, who co-authored [A Quick Guide to Making Your Teaching Stick](#). This training brought teachers from Pelham and Mark's Meadow to Wildwood to get into the classroom, observe workshop and then discuss key aspects of the instruction. This is a powerful and exciting format of professional development and I look forward to continuing this work next year.

See enclosed flyer for the Child to Child Fundraiser being planned by staff and parents on the 28th. It will feature the artwork of our students and the music of our Haitian Artist in Residence, Ayizan Sanon. This community event promises to be enormous fun, a great chance to witness the incredible artistic talent of both staff and students, and it is for the important cause of helping those in need in Haiti.

Also, I invite you to join me at one of the next few "Coffee with the Principal" on April 16th or 30th at 8:30 AM in the cafeteria near the playground. These coffee hours are followed by an opportunity to tour the building with me and see the powerful learning in our classrooms.

DATES AND REMINDERS

April 12-14- Kindergarten Registration

April 15- 6th Grade Musical 9:30 AM & 7:00 PM

April 16- Coffee with a Principal, 8:30 AM
& Trash Free Lunch Day

April 17- Playground Volunteer work day
(see below)

April 19-23- NO SCHOOL

April 27th- Amherst School Committee, 6:30 PM

April 28th - Child to Child Fundraiser, 6:30 PM

April 30th- Coffee with a Principal, 8:30 AM

Wildwood's updated No Child Left Behind Report Card is on our website, www.arps.org/ww. If you would like to receive a paper copy, please call the office.

Update on September 2010! Our team of elementary principals have set up a coordinated system to ensure a careful and thoughtful process for the construction of classrooms for the fall. Please look for the [Parent/Guardian Input form](#) for next year that was sent home with your child on Friday, April 09, 2010.

Reminder about the Spring Parent Conferences Policy

Starting last year the Amherst Elementary Schools instituted a new policy regarding parent conferences. In the fall, teachers hold a parent conference for every student in their class, but spring conferences will only be held if the parent or teacher feels that there is a need for the conference. Parents/guardians, please feel free to contact your child's teacher to schedule a spring conference if you would like to discuss your child's learning or program. Teachers may also be calling you if they feel the need to have a conference.

Decoding the NCLB Report Card:

Each year our nation's No Child Left Behind law requires that every public school provide parents with a "report card" which details our schools' overall performance on the previous year's state standardized MCAS test. This has been posted on the website (www.arps.org/ww) and can be printed out for you upon request. The first page gives you information about our student body, compared to the district and state and attests to the qualifications of our teachers. Page 2 outlines the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) data. A School's AYP is calculated primarily on the Composite Score Index (CPI) which measures the extent to which our students are progressing towards proficiency in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. If all students at Wildwood scored in the Advanced or Proficient categories, our CPI would be 100. Wildwood's Aggregate CPI performance levels were 89.4 in ELA and 83.9 in Math. To find out more details, go into the assessment tab of the report card. We have been doing useful work this year analyzing the test results with focus on some specific subgroups. The results from this year's tests will not be available until the fall of 2010. Please contact me with any questions.
Matt

Wildwood Educators at Work in the Wider Professional Community

At the Massachusetts Occupational Therapy Association's Spring Conference there was a presentation by three teachers about their work here at Wildwood. *Developing a Sensory Smart Classroom* was presented by Marjory Ackerman, Alicia Chin-Gibbons, Joan Epstein, and Stephanie Joyce.

PGO PLAYGROUND VOLUNTEER DAY!

FROM THE PGO! On April 17th Let's spread some wood chips and clean up around the playground on the bright beautiful weekend that begins our "stay-cation" (spring break). If weather permits, we may do some sanding and staining. (*If anyone loves heights, we may need a cupola painter.*)

Bring rakes, shovels, wheelbarrows, gloves, stepladders if you have them, but come anyway, even if you don't.

This can be very fun, social work when we get a bunch of people out there together. Kids are welcome to help or play out of the way of the staining. [We won't have access to bathrooms, so plan for that.]

If I get enough confirmed WW help early on, I'll invite our new (next year) families from other schools to join us; it would be so nice to have a few people who will still be associated with Wildwood (next year I'm no longer a parent of a student at WW) there, too.

RSVP All who can help please email Andrea Dustin at adustin1@verizon.net to let me know to expect you. Thanks. Call if you have questions 549-7542

Meet at 8:30 on the playground



The first annual Amherst Sustainability Festival will be held on Saturday, April 24 (the second weekend of the break) 10 4 in Downtown Amherst. The new festival, a combined effort of the Town's Shade Tree Committee, Energy Task Force, Department of Public Works, and Chamber of Commerce, is all about sustainability for future generations. Families will find interesting activities at Kendrick Park, on the Town Common and in between (participation in a local merchant green scavenger hunt may net great prizes from Amherst businesses). Face painting, story telling, and human gyroscope rides are free and the solar powered sound stage will feature children's theatre and music.

[Internet 101: A Parent's Guide to the Preteen's Life Online, Presented by Cindy Boyle May 6](#)

Internet 101: A Parent's Guide to the Preteen's Life Online Presented by Cindy Boyle

Where: Wildwood School Library

When: **May 6, 2010, 6:30PM**

The Internet's "super highway" runs right through the middle of our children's lives. It opens up a world of entertainment, communication and educational opportunities. However, it also allows direct access to people and Web sites that can expose kids to age-inappropriate content and risky social contacts. This workshop offers a glimpse into the online lives of young people. Participants in this workshop will become familiar with those web sites that are popular with the youth in our community.

Topics covered will include: **social networking sites, online gaming, popular websites and "sexting"**.

Cindy is a former Pittsfield police officer and a victim's assistance advocate for Berkshire County. She is currently the Director of Community Education and Outreach at Northwestern District Attorney's Office in Massachusetts. Cindy visited Wildwood School last year and presented to our fifth and sixth grade students about Internet Safety and Cyber-bullying. Cindy is a valuable resource for our staff and students in our anti-bullying effort.

The presentation is geared toward parents of 5th and 6th grade students. However, if you have younger children who are currently using social networking sites or email at home, please feel free to join us.

Coffee, refreshments and childcare will be provided by the Wildwood PTO.

AMHERST & PELHAM
2010 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

The Amherst and Pelham Schools will begin kindergarten registration for the 2010/2011 school year on:

MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2010

TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2010

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2010

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM each day

Amherst parents/guardians are urged to register at the neighborhood school that your child will attend in the Fall of 2010. **Families that are now in the Marks' Meadow district should register at Wildwood School.** Pelham parents/guardians should register at the Pelham Elementary School.

There will be **one EVENING REGISTRATION** session to accommodate those whose schedules prevent them from registering during the day. The evening registration will take place on:

Wednesday, APRIL 14, 2010 6:00-7:00 PM
at CROCKER FARM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

There will be Khmer, Spanish and Chinese translators available to assist at the evening registration. Parents/guardians from any area of Amherst or Pelham may register their children at this evening session.

Children who will be five years old on or before September 1, 2010 are eligible to enroll in kindergarten for the fall. There are no exceptions to this requirement.

An **original** birth certificate, proof of immunization, proof of residency in the district and a current physical examination are required for admission. The **original** birth certificate, proof of residency, and immunization record should be brought to registration. A physical examination can be performed up to the start of school and forms for a physician to fill out will be available at registration. If parents have questions concerning student eligibility, they are requested to direct their questions to the appropriate building principal.

It is important that you register and make a screening appointment so placement can be made in a timely fashion.

Contact Information:

- Crocker Farm Elementary (413) 362-1600
- Fort River Elementary (413) 362-1200
- Marks Meadow Elementary (413) 362-1305
- Wildwood Elementary (413) 362-1400
- Pelham Elementary (413) 253-3595

Art Studio News

April 2010

Families, please join us at Wildwood for:

Child to Child Helping Through the Arts: A Fundraiser for Haiti Wednesday, April 28th 6:30 to 8:30 PM

Along with a school-wide art exhibit featuring all students' work inspired by the art of Haiti, we will be enjoying performances by Grupo Palo Santo, (featuring our very own Ms. Fernandez-O'Brien), and Haitian musician/poet Ayizan Sanon. There will be a sampling of Haitian food, a silent auction of offerings from Wildwood staff, student created art and cd's for sale, and a book bag collection, all to help Haiti.

A \$5.00 suggested donation per family along with something for our book bag collection (school and art supplies) would be most welcome. Come enjoy our students' creativity and each other's company at this fun event to help the children of Haiti.

Our sixth grade **Art History Time Line Mural** will be having its debut viewing too!

And our new display cabinets will be up and filled with student art. Thank you Mark Landeryou and the PTO!

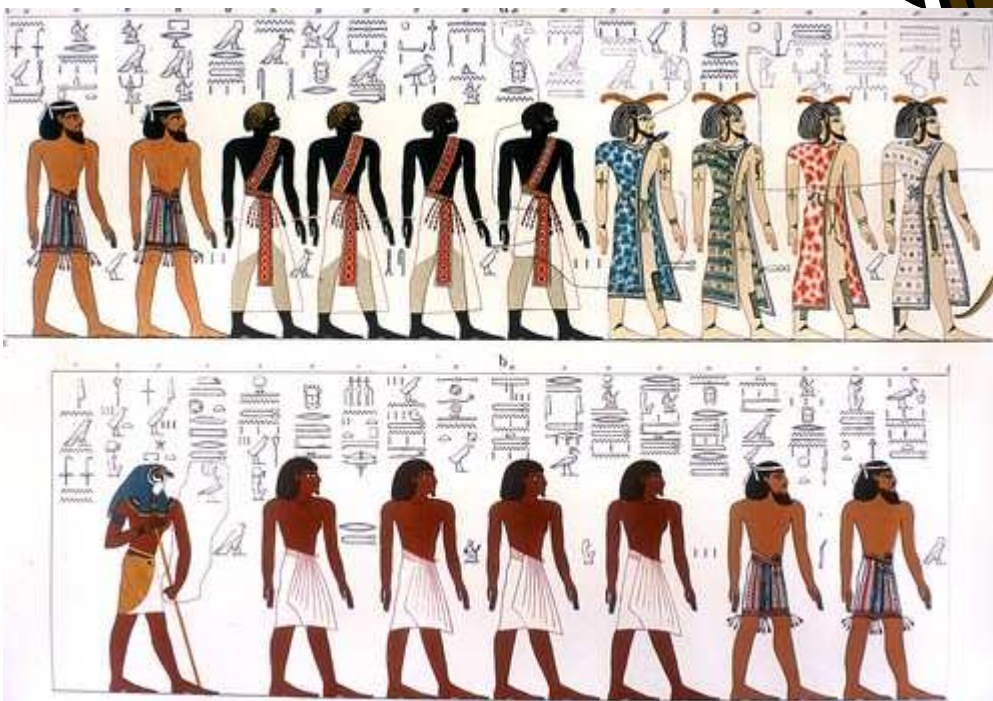
*Wildwood's Sixth
Grade Presents*

"DIG IT!"



*April 15, 2010
9:30 am and 7:00 pm
In the gymnasium
Families are encouraged
to attend the
evening performance*

We hope that you will be able to join us!





THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF
AMHERST & PELHAM, MASSACHUSETTS



170 CHESTNUT STREET
AMHERST, MA 01002

413-362-1810
413-549-6108 (FAX)

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LAS ESCUELAS PÚBLICAS DE
AMHERST Y PELHAM, MASSACHUSETTS



170 CHESTNUT STREET
AMHERST, MA 01002

413-362-1810
413-549-6108 (FAX)

AMHERST Y PELHAM
2010 MATRÍCULA PARA KINDERGARTEN

Las Escuelas de Amherst y Pelham comenzarán la matrícula para niños que entrarán al Kindergarten en el año escolar 2010–11 el:

LUNES, 12 DE ABRIL DE 2010
MARTES, 13 DE ABRIL DE 2010
MIÉRCOLES, 14 DE ABRIL DE 2010
Cada día de 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Se les urge a los padres/ guardianes de Amherst que se matriculen en la escuela de su vecindario. Los padres/ guardianes de Pelham deberán matricularse en la escuela Elemental de Pelham durante las mismas horas.

Habrà una **SESIÓN DE MATRÍCULA EN LA NOCHE** para acomodar a aquellos que el horario no les permita matricularse durante el día. La matrícula durante esta sesión se llevará a cabo el:

MIÉRCOLES, 14 DE ABRIL DE 2010 6:00-7:00 PM
EN LA ESCUELA ELEMENTAL CROCKER FARM

Tendremos traductores en Khmer, Español y Chino que asistirán a la matrícula en la noche. Padres/ guardianes de cualquier área en Amherst o Pelham podrán matricular a sus niños durante esta sesión.

Los niños que cumplirán cinco años en o antes del 1ro de septiembre de 2010 se pueden matricular para el kindergarten de otoño. **No hay excepciones a este requerimiento.**

Un certificado de nacimiento original, comprobante de inmunización, comprobante de residencia en el distrito y comprobante de examen físico son requeridos para poder admitir a su niño. Un certificado de nacimiento original, comprobante de residencia, y comprobante de inmunización deben traerse cuando venga a matricularse. El examen físico puede ser hecho durante el comienzo de la escuela y las formas que debe llenar el médico estarán disponibles durante la matriculación. Si los padres tienen preguntas concernientes a la elegibilidad del estudiante, se les pide que dirija sus preguntas al principal de la escuela correspondiente.

Es importante que se matricule y haga una cita de evaluación para que la ubicación pueda hacerse eficientemente sin retrasos.

Massachusetts School and District Profiles

Wildwood Elementary

Wildwood Elementary - 2009 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Data

District: Amherst (00080000)
 School: Wildwood Elementary (00080050)
 School Title I Status: Non-Title I School (NT)
 NCLB School Choice Required: No
 Supplemental Educational Services Required: No

2009 AYP Data - Summary

	NCLB Accountability Status	Performance Rating	Improvement Rating
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	No Status	High	On Target
MATHEMATICS	Improvement Year 1 - Subgroups	High	No Change

To make Adequate Yearly Progress in 2009, a student group must meet (A) a student participation requirement, either (B) the State's 2009 performance target for that subject or (C) the group's own 2009 improvement target, and (D) an additional attendance or graduation requirement.

Student Group	(A) Participation		(B) Performance		(C) Improvement		(D) Attendance		AYP 2009
	Met Target	Actual	Met Target (90.2)	Actual	Met Target	Change from 2008	Met Target	Actual	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS									
Aggregate	Yes	100	No	89.4	Yes	1.1	Yes	95.6	Yes
Lim. English Prof.	-	-	-	88.8	-	-	-	-	-
Special Education	Yes	100	No	68.2	Yes	1.0	Yes	94.9	Yes
Low Income	Yes	100	No	77.2	Yes/SH	-2.1	Yes	94.5	Yes
Afr. Amer./Black	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asian or Pacif. Isl.	-	-	-	94.8	-	-	-	-	-
Hispanic	-	-	-	79.2	-	-	-	-	-
Native American	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White	Yes	100	Yes	90.9	Yes	0.3	Yes	95.8	Yes
MATHEMATICS									
Aggregate	Yes	100	No	83.9	No	-1.5	Yes	95.6	No
Lim. English Prof.	-	-	-	85.0	-	-	-	-	-
Special Education	Yes	100	No	54.0	No	-10.6	Yes	94.9	No
Low Income	Yes	100	No	68.5	No	-3.4	Yes	94.5	No
Afr. Amer./Black	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asian or Pacif. Isl.	-	-	-	94.6	-	-	-	-	-
Hispanic	-	-	-	68.8	-	-	-	-	-
Native American	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White	Yes	100	Yes	84.8	No	-0.1	Yes	95.8	Yes

Adequate Yearly Progress History											NCLB Accountability Status
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009		
ELA	Aggregate	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No Status
	All Subgroups	-	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
MATH	Aggregate	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Improvement Year 1 - Subgroups
	All Subgroups	-	-	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	



Family Story Power Project

Changing Lives by Nurturing and Supporting Family Literacy



What is the Family Story Power Project?

A six week program that brings families together to craft and read stories in a safe and supportive environment.

- Provides access to colorful and language-rich books
- Allows families to create and write their own books together
- Offers useful tips for cultivating a rich and meaningful reading experience

Why is the Family Story Power Project So Valuable?

- Children need access to books and time to read and write
- Sustainable literacy begins in childhood and continues through adulthood
- Connections to books should be woven into the daily fabric of family life



How Can I Participate in the Family Story Power Project?

To learn more about bringing the Family Story Power Project to your community, contact Deb Jurkowitz at FSPP.LitLife@gmail.com or (914) 963-4450.

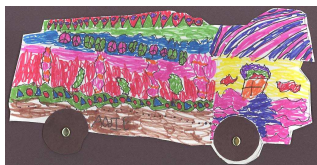


This program was created by LitLife, Inc. Visit www.LitLifeInfo.com for more information.



Child to Child

Helping Through the Arts: A Fundraiser for Haiti



***Wildwood Elementary School
Wednesday, April 28th
6:30 to 8:30 PM***

Please join us for:

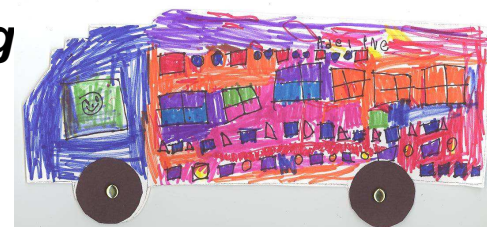
- ***School-wide exhibit of Haitian-inspired art by Wildwood students***
- ***Performances by:
Dance troupe Grupo Palo Santo
Haitian musician/poet Ayizan Sanon***
- ***Poetry readings by Wildwood students***
- ***Samplings of Haitian food***
- ***Silent auction featuring teacher talents***
- ***Student created art and cd's for sale***

Suggested donation: \$5.00 per family

Please bring an item for our bookbag collection

***All funds raised will go directly to the Western MA
Collaboration for AFYA, to send school and other
urgently needed supplies to Haiti.***

Questions? riveraj@arps.org



Talking Points—Trash-Free Lunch Day 2010

General Waste information:

- The average American (US citizen) generates 4.5 pounds of trash daily.
- The US constitutes only 5% of the world's population, yet we generate nearly half of its waste.
- The Town of Amherst is home to two "capped" landfills (no longer active): one behind the Transfer Station and Recycling Center, the other North of the Amherst Woods neighborhood. We now haul our waste to landfills in Northampton and South Hadley.
- Waste from Amherst is (currently) deposited in regional landfills, but both the Northampton and South Hadley landfills are scheduled to close (they have reached capacity) within the next year or so. (S. Hadley has filed for a landfill expansion with the Dept of Environmental Protection, which might allow them to stay open longer.) Amherst will soon need to find another way to deal with its trash.
- Almost one-third of the waste generated in America is packaging. For example, every year, Americans make enough plastic film to shrink-wrap the state of Texas.
- Whitsons made the switch from Styrofoam® (petroleum product that is not compostable) to cardboard lunch trays (which are compostable) when they took over the food service program...despite a cost difference (wholesalers practically give Styrofoam® away).
- In 2006, the Environmental Action Club at ARHS conducted a trash audit and found that 64% of the material in the cafeteria trash bins was compostable.
- Food waste is typically the heaviest component of cafeteria trash.
- **Reducing school waste cuts waste removal expenses and conserves space at landfills.**

Info Specific to Trash-Free Lunch Day

- TFLD is a collaboration of the Town of Amherst Department of Public Works and Whitsons Culinary Group.
- Cafeteria lunches are specially designed on that day to prevent waste (washable trays, finger food, avoidance of plastic cups and utensils). Parents and students who bring their lunches are asked to pack them without disposable plastic wrappings and tubs (waxed paper is OK as it can be composted).
- In Spring 2008, Wildwood reduced its lunchtime trash volume by 90%, producing only 6.5 pounds of trash.
- In Spring 2009, Crocker Farm produced $\frac{1}{4}$ of a pound of trash, and Wildwood produced 5.75 pounds. That translates to a generation of .21 cubic inches (CF) and .21 cubic inches (WW) of trash per student.
- Pending superintendent approval, this year ALL Amherst elementary school students will receive free reusable lunch bags from a local donor.

Feel free to call me if you have questions, suggestions or would like to find additional material/factoids.

Susan Waite
TOA Recycling Coordinator
waites@amherstma.gov
413-259-3049