

Schools

Amherst Middle School Spelling Bee



Amherst Middle School Spelling Bee Champion, Lindsay McCool

Congratulations to Amherst Middle School's Spelling Bee Champion, Lindsay McCool. Lindsay, a 5th grade student, completed 8 rounds before spelling the championship word, "photosynthesis." Runner-up, Bidisha Sen, a seventh grade student, was a tremendous competitor. Lindsay will be representing Amherst Middle School at the Regional Spelling Bee on March 7, 2010, at the Nashua Elks Lodge. The Bee begins at 1:00PM. We wish Lindsay the best of luck at the Regional Bee!



Amherst Middle School's Spelling Bee Finalists: Seated in the front row: Julia Apiki, Camden Patt, Lindsay McCool, Callie Cinque, Greg Sopper, Liam Dickinson; Back row: Bidisha Sen, Alex Moresco, Jeff Mason, Morgan Pagliocco, Sage Wesenberg, and Kim Grasset.

CLARK SCHOOL

2010/2011 New Student Registration

Incoming Kindergarten students

5 years old by 09/30/2010.

First Grade students new to the district

6 years old by 9/30/2010.

Current students do not need to re-register.

DATE: Wednesday, February 10, 2010

* Snow date Wednesday, February 17, 2010 *

PLACE: Clark School Multi-Purpose Room

14 Foundry Street

Amherst

TIME: 9:00a.m. – 2:00p.m.

5:00p.m. – 7:00p.m.

Enrollment packets can be downloaded from our website http://www1.sprise.com/clark/cw_forms.html

Please bring original birth certificate and immunization records.

Trumpeter Greg Hopkins And The Berklee College Concert Jazz Orchestra Come To Souhegan For Jazz Night, February 12

AMHERST - Former trumpet player with the Buddy Rich Band Greg Hopkins will bring his Concert Jazz Orchestra from the Berklee College of Music in Boston to the Souhegan Jazz Night on Friday February 12 at 7:00pm. They will be the featured performers as part of the Souhegan Jazz Night Concert Series. That symbiosis of man and musical instrument is evident in Hopkins' solo performances by which he has served the orchestras of Louis Bellson, Billy Maxted, Buddy Rich, and Herb Pomeroy, as well as his own small ensembles and big bands. Hopkins began his professional career in 1965, freelancing in the Detroit area for such acts as the Temptations, Marvin Gaye, and Gladys Knight until 1969, when he graduated Michigan State. From 1969 to 1974 he toured nationally and internationally, appearing at the Newport, Monterey, and other major jazz festivals. Hopkins has also performed with Dizzy Gillespie, Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra, Stevie Wonder, Joe Williams, Tony Bennett, the Supremes, Burt Bacharach, Nancy Wilson, Lou Rawls, Mitzi Gaynor, Michel Legrand, Johnny Mathis, Shirley Maclane, Marvin Hamlisch, and Lena Horne, as well as the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Pops, and the Boston Brass Ensemble. The Berklee CJO is a 17-piece jazz ensemble made up of some of the



Trumpeter Greg Hopkins

best student musicians at the Berklee College playing contemporary jazz written and arranged by Mr. Hopkins and other composers. Joining Mr. Hopkins and the Berklee CJO will be high school jazz ensembles from Souhegan, Alvirne HS (Hudson), Pelham Memorial Middle School and Nashua South. The concert will be held in the Souhegan theater. Admission is \$10.00 for adults, \$8.00 for students. For further information contact Carl Benvides at cbenvides@sprise.com. For more info on Greg Hopkins go to: www.greghopkins.net.

A Beast in Amherst Middle School?



The cast and crew are practicing so hard to pull the show together. This musical is a thrilling tale of a beautiful young girl Belle, (played by Hailey Aiken) who runs away to try to find her kidnapped father. Meanwhile she runs into a cursed prince who is a Beast (played by Jason Emmond)! Beauty and The Beast Jr. is in full swing. Show dates are March 11th, 12th and 13th. Tickets go on sale February 1st Thank you for supporting our theater club.

Large Numbers Attended Amherst PTA's Family Math Night

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Joe Taggart with daughter, Caroline.



Chess activity center.



Lucienne Foulks with Braden.



Michele Burke helps her daughter Bailey.



Mary Ireland and Julia enjoying Math Night.

Going Public

Ode to our Guidance Counselors

BY PEGGY SILVA, DEAN OF FACULTY

My own high school guidance counselor neither guided nor counseled, so I am frequently in awe of the work of our school's counseling staff. Eighteen years ago, we wrestled with a definition for guidance counselors in a school where the mission of personalization meant new roles for every adult. We had many thoughtful, brain-cramping conversations as we tried to sort out the puzzle pieces of working together in new ways. We grew to understand that every caring adult needs to have a seat at the same table to coach, guide, and advise our students on their path through adolescence. We have designed intricate webs to surround students with many supportive adults. Guidance Director Karen Chininis says that when she hears counselors talk about 'their kids,' "it speaks to a sense of ownership and nurturing that epitomizes personalization." Our guidance counselors spend time in classrooms, sometimes offering insight into a character's motivation in a novel being read in a classroom, attending a 'world summit' in a social studies class, participating as a class speaker, or traveling with a group to a community service site. Because our counselors work so closely with every aspect of our school community, they can respond to students' needs very quickly. If they notice a sudden surge in students who have recently moved to our towns, they sponsor a lunch group for new kids. If they become aware that there are students who have experienced great loss, they establish a grief group for students affected. They routinely support students who deal with difficult social issues in their families. Our counselors are woven into the school community in several key ways. Counselors are members of teams at grades 9 and 10, exchanging a free flow of information regarding students' needs and accomplishments. Counselors work with each 11th and 12th grade advisory to help guide students through their next transition process. Counselors meet with each student at course registration time to ensure that the student is pursuing courses relevant to individual interests or passions. Counselors mediate for students in conflict, and they routinely meet with any of the over 200 students on their caseload. Our counselors know our students, their friends, their parents, their academic progress, their social concerns, and their plans for their futures. This ongoing relationship helps counselors to provide resources beyond what the school can offer to students with particular issues. Our counselors report that this current generation of students feels much more pressured than in the past. The academic and social challenges they face are far more complex than in previous times. Often, the school guidance counselor forms the essential bridge that links the communication between school and home. Their insight allows us to focus on the whole child, not simply the view from one particular lens. Their work happens every day, all day, but last October, in the dark days surrounding the tragedy we witnessed in Mont Vernon, we got a chance to see these unsung heroes doing what comes naturally—taking care of a community in ways that truly made a difference. On graduation night in June, teachers watch with pride as former students cross the stage to receive their diplomas, but every student walking across that stage bears the handprint of a guidance counselor who has nurtured aspirations of students with dreams, or pushed and cajoled students who have stumbled a few times. Our students' celebration of their accomplishments owes a lot to the work behind the scenes of our counseling staff.

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