

# the Bellringer

May 2010

Amherst PTA

## Amherst PTA

Serving Clark, Wilkins,  
and Amherst Middle  
Schools since 1931

### For More Information

[www.amherstpta.org](http://www.amherstpta.org)  
[ptaboard@amherstpta.org](mailto:ptaboard@amherstpta.org)

### Contents at a Glance

Attic Resources...pg 2  
Curriculum Enrichment  
at Wilkins...pg 2  
PTA Funded Programs  
at AMS...pg 3  
4th Grade Field Trip...pg 3  
3rd Grade Colonial  
History Week...pg 4  
Community News...pg 5



## Information From The PTA Board

- Thank you to all PTA committee chairs for all the hard work and dedication to our programs this year!
- Thank you to all of the wonderful performers and organizers of the play Children of Eden which was a sheer pleasure to watch.
- Special announcement that next year's play which will be our 59<sup>th</sup> is going to be "Music Man". Announcements for auditions will be made by the producers and directors in the fall.
- The PTA is now accepting proposals from anyone interested in directing the play for the following year which will be our celebratory 60<sup>th</sup> PTA Play! Please submit a proposal for Willie Wonka, and any additional plays for which you have a passion, being sure to list your supporting staff and your budgetary requirements.
- Please help the PTA by submitting any ideas you have for community events and fundraisers that you would like to see organized for our schools.
- Keep your kids' creativity flowing this summer and let the children know that the upcoming year's Reflections program theme is going to be published on the PTA website within the next month. Carry the camera, write some music, create a work of art, a dance routine, a home movie, or anything related to the new theme.
- Grants are being approved at this month's May 11<sup>th</sup> General Meeting to be held a 7 pm at Wilkins School - we need a quorum so please come out and vote for all the grants that our fundraising efforts this year are able to support!
- Please attend our June meeting to be held at 7 pm at the Wilkins School on June 8<sup>th</sup> to vote in new board members.
- We are happy to announce that all PTA meetings for the 2010-2011 school year will be held back at Wilkins School.
- Looking forward to seeing everyone at our May and June meetings!

Regards,  
The PTA Board

## Dates to Remember

Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>  
Clark School Hop a Thon

Mon, May 10<sup>th</sup>-Fri, May 17<sup>th</sup>  
Wilkins Library Week  
Celebration and Open House

Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup>  
First Grade Art Show,  
Clark Multi-Purpose  
Room 6-7pm

Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>  
AMS/Clark/Wilkins  
Late Start

Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>  
PTA General Meeting,  
7-8:30pm, AMS

Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup>  
Wilkins Walk a Thon

Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup>- Wilkins  
First Grade Music Show,  
6:30pm

Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>  
AMS Grades 5 & 6 Band  
Concert,  
AMS Café 6pm

Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>  
AMS Grades 7&8 Band  
Concert,  
AMS Café, 6pm

Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup>  
AMS Dance, Grades 6-8,  
7-9:30pm

Mon, May 24<sup>th</sup>- Fri, May 28<sup>th</sup>  
Clark/Wilkins Writing  
Festival Week

Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup>  
No School- Memorial Day

## Attic Resources Requests

Clark Elementary  
673-2343

Linda Narducci would like for Clark Field Day (June 4<sup>th</sup>):

- Bubble Liquid
- Face Paint – primary colors and others
- Pool Noodles
- Paper Cups



Franna Eaton, Reading Specialist ([featon@sprise.com](mailto:featon@sprise.com)), would like:

- Paper lunch bags
- Straws
- Sandwich size bags
- Cotton balls

*Please provide items directly to the requestor.*

## Curriculum Enrichment at Wilkins

Sedimentary rocks are made up of layers forming upon layers; and that all fossils are found in Sedimentary rocks – more commonly known as Limestone and Sandstone. And, Metamorphic rocks are the result of another rock changing – such as Marble, which used to be Limestone.

### Rocks & Minerals

In early April, Barbara Medlyn from The Quartz Source (a.k.a. Medlyn Monument) visited each second grade classroom and talked to the students about rocks and minerals that she brought to share with them.

The 2nd graders learned that rocks are made of minerals and they specifically learned about three different types of rock: Igneous, Sedimentary, and Metamorphic.

An example of Igneous rock is Granite, which is made up of the minerals – quartz, mica, and feldspar. Mrs. Medlyn passed around Granite rock varieties and explained that the Granite rocks looked

*(Continued on page 5)*

# Programs and Committees

## PTA Funded Programs at AMS

The Amherst Middle School has been VERY busy and enjoyed many PTA funded programs this past March, some new and some that have been requested repeatedly.

5th grade had Document Detectives a wonderful presentation new to us, of artifacts that the students could hold and examine and Living Voices, The New American, where an actress played the part of an Irish Immigrant with an interactive video presentation.

6th grade enjoyed a return visit from The Discovery Museum where the students had an amazing presentation of matter changing forms. They also had a hands on workshop to conduct experiments of their own.

7th grade was presented with two programs, Tom White did a very moving Holocaust presentation that created a deeper understanding of the mindset of the people in Germany as well as a return visit from Living Voices.

There are several more upcoming programs and the funds are greatly appreciated by the teachers and the students.



## Fourth Grade Field Trip

### Farm to Factory

The fourth graders experienced going back in time when representatives from the LILE (Lowell Industrial Learning Experience) recently visited each classroom to demonstrate a hands-on experience of what life was like living on a farm in New England.

The students began with learning that the process of creating textiles wasn't exactly what they thought happened 200 years ago. Instead, they learned the job of making a simple skirt or shirt was *very* hard work. Imagine having to catch a sheep, clean it, shear it just to get started? The fun part for the students was turning actual wool into pieces of yarn. Each student also practiced weaving on looms and was surprised to realize that to make just one piece of clothing could take months! Therefore, all clothing women made was always too big; ensuring plenty of room to grow. A boy and a girl in each class actually experienced wearing some samples of clothing throughout the presentation.

Eventually, life and economic hardships became difficult for New England rural farm families. Students learned why young women left farm style living by taking the opportunity of moving to the city of Lowell. Those women lived in boarding houses while earning money from working in the Lowell Mills.

The industrial revolution was enacted in the classroom. It was revealed how women had to work long hours for little pay - if they wanted to make a stand for their rights or threaten a strike, the students were surprised to learn that there were many other women willing to come to work in their place - as far away as Europe; and for less pay. Regardless of the intense labor the Lowell Mill girls

*(Continued on page 5)*

# Programs and Committees

## **3rd Grade Colonial History Week** **Monday June 7- Friday June 11, 2010**

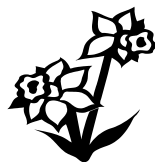


Dear 3rd Grade Parents,

Beginning on Monday, June 7th and ending on Friday, June 11th, the 3rd graders at Wilkins school will be participating in 3rd grade Colonial History Week. This includes a walking tour of various historical landmarks and homes in Amherst and concludes with a picnic on the Village Green. We will need 2 parent volunteers from each class for each day to help. Here is the current schedule:

- **Monday, June 7th** - Mike's Garage and the Amherst Town Library.
- **Tuesday, June 8th** - The Congregational Church and The Town Hall.
- **Wednesday, June 9th and Thursday June 10th** - The Chapel Museum and The Wigwam Museum.
- **Friday, June 11th** - House Tours and the Town Hall Burial Ground tour.
- **At 12:00 p.m. on Friday, all parents and siblings are invited to the Village Green for a picnic, colonial games, and colonial trade demonstrations. All children are encouraged to dress up in colonial costumes on this day.** Typical colonial wear for girls included dresses, long skirts, petticoats, and bonnets; while boys wore tri-corn (3 corner) hats, short pants with long socks and vests (baseball pants might work too). Students should also bring a disposable bag lunch for the picnic on Friday.

You should have already received a sign up sheet in your child's backpack. **If you have not received it and would still like to volunteer, please contact Kim Ahearn at 673-6761 or Shelly Kayser at 673-6457 as soon as possible.** Thank you in advance for your help!



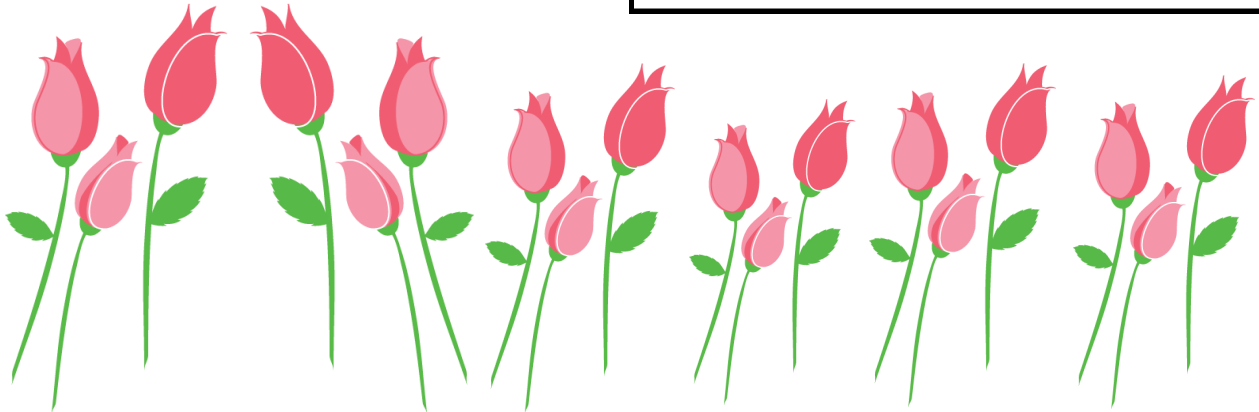
# Programs and Committees

(Continued from page 2)

different because of the “cooling speed” which gives the distinction and size of the crystals in rocks.

(Continued from page 3)

faced, they knew it was their deed to earn money and eventually return to life they knew best - **their** families and farms and eventually marry.



## Community News

### Summer Arts Camp

Summer Arts Camp -returning this year! Courses will be taught by local professional artists with a knack for working with teens. This is for students going into grades 5-9 from all local schools. The camp will run the weeks of June 28 and July 12, Monday through Thursday, from 10:00 to 12:30 pm at MMS. Two courses will be offered each week. Courses are: “Bird in a Nest: Felting and Paper Clay” with JoAnn Kitchel, “Playing with Metals for Ornaments and Jewelry” with Karen Mitchell, “Fun and Funky Mosaics and Stepping Stones” with Susanna Ries and “Fresh Air Drawing and Painting” with Beth Cianci. Summer Arts Camp is run by the Milford Middle School (MMS) Enrichment Program in partnership with Mont Vernon Artisans. It is funded in part by the NH State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information and a brochure, please contact Libby Anderson at 672-9876 or [mmsenrich@charter.net](mailto:mmsenrich@charter.net) or Nina Zotcavage at 673-7365 or [jzotcavage@aol.com](mailto:jzotcavage@aol.com).

