

# the Bellringer

September 2010  
Vol. I

**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)

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The Bellringer is published monthly and can be downloaded from our website:  
[amherstpta.org](http://amherstpta.org)

The next deadline for submission to the Bellringer is:  
October 15th.

## Welcome to 2010's New School Year!

Hello and Welcome back!

What a beautiful summer it was! The smell of autumn leaves is in the air and we all know what that means...new sneakers, fresh hair cuts and yes, that once again quiet cup of coffee as we wave and smile to our children skipping off to school!

But wait, don't get too relaxed! The information contained in this months Bellringer will get you up and on your feet for some exciting Volunteer Opportunities and Community Events!

First, join us for the first PTA meeting of the school year Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> 7pm at Wilkins in the Library. Please come by and say HELLO!

Secondly, the PTA will be hosting **FAMILY INFORMATION NIGHT** on Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm at Wilkins in the Multipurpose Room. Stop by to meet local businesses and make some new friends!

The PTA is a wonderful organization that contributes to the growth and development of our children. The Volunteer opportunities are endless, if you would like to volunteer please contact us at [ptaboard@amherstpta.org](mailto:ptaboard@amherstpta.org). Also, we currently have "open" board positions such as Co-Vice President, Co-President and Board Member at Large. And of course, all of our community events and fundraisers always have room for one more helping set of hands!

One more thing...we are here for you 24/7...questions, concerns, or if you just want to chat! You can reach us at [ptaboard@amherstpta.org](mailto:ptaboard@amherstpta.org).

Have a fantastic year and we hope to see you around!

Warm Regards,

Sara Derushia, President  
Denise Alderson, Vice President  
Michelle Donoughe, Treasurer  
Saundra Carberry, Secretary



# PTA Dates To Remember



## Schedule Of PTA Events

### PTA Family Information Night

September 27<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8pm  
Wilkins Multipurpose Room

### PTA Magazine Drive

September—October 2010 Wilkins Elementary and  
November for Amherst Middle School

### PTA Online Auction

Opens November 1<sup>st</sup> & Closes November  
19<sup>th</sup>@midnight  
To access items visit [www.amherstpta.org](http://www.amherstpta.org) and  
follow on-line auction link

### PTA Science Day

Saturday November 6<sup>th</sup> 8am-4pm  
Wilkins Multipurpose Room

### PTA Holiday Story Time

Friday December 10<sup>th</sup> 6:30-730pm  
Wilkins Multipurpose Room

### PTA Reflections Open House

Saturday January 15<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm Clark Multipurpose

### PTA Family Math Night

February 7<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm Wilkins Multipurpose Room

### PTA Play "The Music Man"

Thursday April 14<sup>th</sup> 7pm, Friday April 15<sup>th</sup> 7pm,  
Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup> 2pm & 7pm,  
Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup> 2pm  
Souheghan High School Theatre

### Original Arts

TBD

## PTA Meetings

PTA meetings will be held at Wilkins Elementary  
School in the Library at 7pm.

Tuesday, September 14th

Tuesday, October 12th

Tuesday, November 9th

*\*December, No meeting*

Tuesday, January 11th

Tuesday, February 15th

Tuesday, March 8th

Tuesday, April 12th

Tuesday, May 10th

*\*June, No meeting*

*\*\* Location subject to change*

## Come to the first PTA Meeting of the Year!

The first PTA meeting for this year will be on  
Tuesday, **September 14th, 7:00- PM** at the  
Wilkins Elementary School Library.

Please come out to meet and vote in the new  
board members, ask questions of the PTA, join  
committees, have a snack, catch up with old  
friends, and enjoy some quality time at our round-  
table to see what is planned for the upcoming  
year.

Feel free to bring a friend or newcomer to the  
area!



## 2010-2011 Board & Committee Members

### Introducing your 2010-2011 Board Members!

Sara Derushia, President, 475-2577  
Denise Alderson, Vice President, 424-4521  
Michele Donoghue, Treasurer, 672-8746  
Saundra Carbery, Secretary, 672-1186  
Member at Large, TBD

Board members can be reached at their personal contact details given here, or also at [ptaboard@amherstpta.org](mailto:ptaboard@amherstpta.org).

We are all volunteers that have come forward in the last year to help keep the PTA running and to help to provide great things for the children of our community.

We will do our best to give **100%** effort and we welcome you to join the committee to help at any time.

### PTA Committees

The PTA, with the support of the community, also provides the following activities, events & resources:

#### Attic Resources

Committee Chair: Laura Taylor

#### Bellringer

Committee Chair: Sherri Langone

#### Book Fairs

Committee Chair: Ellen Roos-Unger

#### Curriculum Enrichment Committee Chairs

Clark: Gretchen Pyles

Wilkins: Jil Romano

AMS: Ruth Infanti & Kim Kirk

#### School Grants

Committee Chairs: Anna Rego & Ellen Roos-Unger

#### Hospitality

Committee Chair: Amanda Barrett

#### Membership/Directory

Committee Chairs: Karen Oates & Cheryl Forster

### PTA Committees Continued

#### OMDR

Committee Chair: Cheryl Foster

#### Amherst Middle School Fashion Show

Committee Chair: Sherri Langone

#### PTA Website

Committee Chair: Leigh Ann Evans

#### Staff Appreciation

Committee Chair: Leigh Ann Evans

#### Family Information Night

Committee Chair: Jane Sodders & Patti Mahoney

#### Family Science Day

Committee Chair: Jane Sodders

#### Holiday Story Time

Committee Chair: Jennifer Boucher

#### Magazine Drive

Committee Chair: Susan Shaw

#### Reflections

Committee Chairs: Gillian Smith & Melanie Byram

#### Original Art

Committee Chairs: Kate Geskos & Leslie Bennett

#### PTA Playbill

Committee Chair: Gail Jordan

#### PTA Producer

Committee Chairs: Jackie O'Dowd, Rita Piotrowski

#### Online Auction

Committee Chairs: Gillian Smith & Ellen Roos-Unger

#### Family Math Night

Committee Chairs: Karen Oates, Deanna Zell & Beth Hall

We are very proud of all the volunteers and support the PTA receives from our parents, teachers, administration and community that help make all this possible.

For that we THANK *each* and *every* one of you.

If you would like more information on how you can become involved in the Amherst PTA, please visit us at [www.amherstpta.org](http://www.amherstpta.org).



## PTA Volunteer Opportunities—Help Wanted!



**No experience necessary!**  
**The Amherst PTA is in need of**  
**SUPER AWESOME PARENTS! (like you)**

Right now, the Magazine Drive is in need of volunteers and there are many opportunities available to help out and meet new friends by stuffing envelopes, handing out prizes and more!

The Amherst PTA is a wonderful community family that supports several different activities we have all come to love, such as Reflections, Curriculum Enrichment, Holiday Story Time, Family Math Night, Family Science Day and Reflections.

With the support of the following fund raisers: Magazine Drive, Original Arts, PTA Play and PTA Playbill, we are able to continue to bring these fabulous activities to our children!

We have many people who work behind the scenes that help support the above mentioned activities: Membership/Directory Committee, Attic Resources, Bellringer, Family Information Night, Grant Committee, Health Fair, Hospitality, PTA Playbill, PTA Play Producers, and Staff Appreciation! Thank you!

**Please consider making the Amherst PTA part of your life!**

Come to our first PTA meeting of the year!  
Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 7PM, in the Library at Wilkins Elementary School

For more information contact The Amherst PTA Board

[ptaboard@amherstpta.org](mailto:ptaboard@amherstpta.org)

# Programs And Community Events

## Curriculum Enrichment Corner

Curriculum Enrichment programs for grades K-8 are brought into the Amherst Elementary and Middle schools each year to reinforce concepts in Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science.

These programs include: hands-on electricity workshops, wildlife workshops, music concerts, interactive museums from pioneer and pilgrim historical lifestyles, and other school-wide cultural programs.

Each year, curriculum enrichment programs are funded by the Amherst PTA. Curriculum Enrichment Chairpeople are annual members of the Amherst PTA and facilitate these programs in our schools.

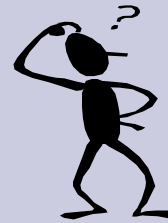


If you would like more information, please contact:  
Clark: Gretchen Pyles  
Wilkins: Jil Romano  
AMS: Ruth Infanti & Kim Kirk

## Family Information Night

New to Amherst or just looking for extracurricular activity information? Then come to Family Information Night on Monday, September 27th from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm - Wilkins Multipurpose Room. Many local businesses will be participating. Refreshments and many raffles will be available.

If you would like to volunteer to help set-up for this event, please contact Jane Soddors @ [jsodders@comcast.net](mailto:jsodders@comcast.net) or Patti Mahoney @ [pmm\\_03031@yahoo.com](mailto:pmm_03031@yahoo.com).



Mark your calendars for...

## Family Science Day!

Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Wilkins Multipurpose Room

You won't want to miss this special day of parent-child interaction, learning and fun! Now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year, this family event designed for K-4 students and their parents shouldn't be missed. As in past years, there will be more interactive experiments and displays--something for everyone! We set up the experiments and exhibits so that parents and students can have fun learning something new.

Volunteers are still needed to help out with either the planning of the event, set up on the evening of Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup> or to come help on the day of the event. There are plenty of opportunities—and you don't need a PhD in Physics! Come join us in this great community event! Please contact Jane Soddors ([jsodders@comcast.net](mailto:jsodders@comcast.net) or 672-7882) for volunteer information. We hope to see you there!!



## Programs and Community Events

### The 2010 PTA Magazine Drive Is Coming Soon!!



The Magazine Drive will kick-off in late September at Wilkins School and in early November at AMS. The **PTA needs volunteers** for both schools. Volunteers are needed before the drives begin to fill and distribute packets and during the drives to process orders and staff prize stores. If you are interested in helping, please contact Susan Shaw at: [susansconsignments@comcast.net](mailto:susansconsignments@comcast.net)

**You can help make this year's fund raiser a success.**

RENEW your favorite magazine or SUBSCRIBE to a new one and our schools BENEFIT.

Use our school codes and we receive 40% of every order.

New subscriptions and renewals can be made 24 hours a day.

**Just follow these steps:**

Go to [www.qsp.com](http://www.qsp.com)

- Click "shop now" under the yellow "supporters" section.
- Enter **AMS School Code: 425006783** or **Wilkins School Code: 425005670** for school/organization.
- Shop for magazines and place them in your cart.
- Search specific magazines by name in the search window.
- Proceed to check out.
- Enter your mailing address & billing address.
- Under participant information, enter your **child's first & last name** as well as your **child's homeroom teacher's LAST name & grade**.
- Then, complete check-out.

**Every order helps. Please share this information with family and friends.**

Each magazine ordered on-line between September 1, 2010, and the official drive start dates will earn the child specified in your order one ticket. Each magazine ordered on-line during the actual school drive event will earn your child three tickets. Other ticket and prize bonuses will only be available during the actual drive event dates. Tickets will be distributed during the actual drive event and are redeemed for prizes at prize stores.

Thank you for your continued support,

Susan Shaw, PTA Magazine Drive Chair

[susansconsignments@comcast.net](mailto:susansconsignments@comcast.net)

## Programs And Community Events

### Amherst PTA Play Proposals for 2012

60th Anniversary!

\*\* Deadline extended to **November 1, 2010** \*\*

The Amherst PTA is currently accepting proposals for the 60th Amherst PTA Play, which will take place in April of 2012. The Deadline has been extended to November 1, 2010. Please submit your proposal for a "family friendly" play to the Amherst PTA at [ptaboard@amherstpta.org](mailto:ptaboard@amherstpta.org). The proposal must include a cost/budget analysis and detailed ideas. We look forward to reviewing all submissions!



**GOIN' ONCE!!!**

Amherst PTA Holiday ONLINE Auction

**GOIN' TWICE!!!!!!**

Go to [www.amherstpta.org](http://www.amherstpta.org) and click on "ONLINE AUCTION" to get super gift ideas and to bid on them.

This is a great Opportunity to buy holiday gifts and support the Amherst Schools!

New items will be added daily up to November 1<sup>st</sup> when bidding actually begins.

Mark the dates on your calendar:

Online bidding open from **November 1<sup>st</sup>** through midnight **November 19<sup>th</sup>**.

Distribution of items Nov 21-23 - well in advance of your Black Friday shopping.

If you have items or services you'd like to donate, please email [auction@amherstpta.org](mailto:auction@amherstpta.org).

Instructions to register yourself for the auction, including creating a private bidding ID is on the [amherstpta.org](http://amherstpta.org) website, or you can click here to view and create.

We are hoping that this auction will be the first of many to come. Its success depends on the donations and the participation of our community members, parents and teachers. The monies made from this auction will go to provide Curriculum Enrichment for all students grades K-8 and Grants for teachers to enhance their classrooms for the children.



## Programs and Community Events



### PTA Reflections 2010/11

#### Volunteers needed!

This years theme for the National PTA Arts Program Reflections is

"Together We Can..."

The deadline for all submissions is **Tuesday, January 4, 2011.**

In an effort to be more "green", entry forms and rules will be available at [www.AmherstPTA.org](http://www.AmherstPTA.org), with only a limited number being in your school office for those without computer access. Artwork, DVDs, etc. will still be collected at your school office.

If you are interested in volunteering to help on the Reflections committee, please contact Melanie Byram at 396-6824 or Gillian Smith at 672-9061. Thanks!



### Amherst PTA 2011 Proudly Presents,

#### "The Music Man"



Directed by Dave Ostrowski and Kevin Linkroum

Auditions held January 4th and 5th

Rehearsals held on Tuesdays, Thursdays and  
Sundays

Performance Dates are April 14th—17th 2011

### Spring Book Fair Volunteers

Do you love to sell books to raise funds for the Clark/Wilkins School Libraries? Can't get enough of pencil grips?? The spring book fair takes place during the writing festival at Wilkins School every  
May.

The book fair committee needs friendly faces to lend a hand helping to sell books to interested students and parents of Clark and Wilkins School.

If you are interested in being a happy helper, please email your name and phone number

to

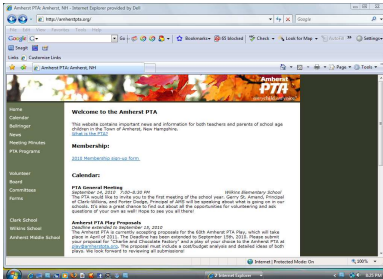
[ellenbro6868@alumni.umass.edu](mailto:ellenbro6868@alumni.umass.edu)

# Where To Find It... On-Line Resources



Amherst PTA Website:

<http://amherstpta.org/>

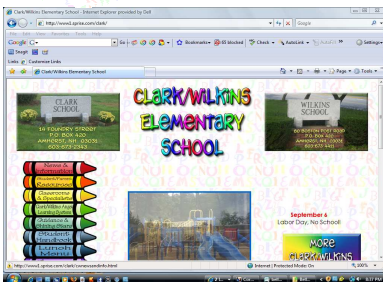


The Amherst PTA website is your one stop connection to all board information, community events, programs and event schedule. The Bellringer is also available for download. Make sure to check back and check often to stay up to date!



Clark/Wilkins Website:

<http://www1.sprise.com/clark/>

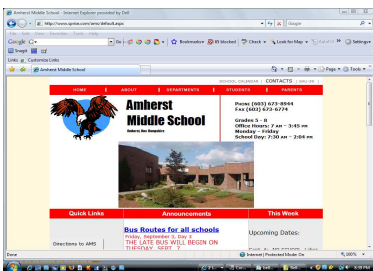


The Clark/Wilkins Elementary School website is chock full of great resources including the school calendar, principals letter, volunteers corner, and helpful tools for students and parents alike. Don't forget to check out the latest bus schedules for the new year!



Amherst Middle School Website:

<http://www.sprise.com/ams/default.aspx>



The AMS website has everything you need! School and bus schedules, parent updates and resources, latest happenings, after school activities, clubs and sports calendars, just to name a few! Parents don't forget to check out "In The Middle", from Principal Porter Dodge!

facebook

Amherst PTA is on Facebook!



Did you know you can stay informed with the PTA on Facebook? Become a fan to keep up with the latest happenings with the Amherst PTA!