

From Your Director...

It is with great pleasure and pride that this newsletter is sent to our readers, for this edition and the next are ones in which we celebrate the achievements of our students: our three 2010 graduates from the Pre-Professional Program who have gone on to study ballet at prestigious dance conservatories, and our five seniors from the class of 2011. All of us, parents, teachers, staff, pianists, choreographers, board members, and fellow students, share the pride in the accomplishments of our graduates and relish the opportunity to boast just a little! We hope you will enjoy reading about these students who have called Amherst Ballet their second home for so many years. Even though some of them have left us and others soon will, we will always feel their presence here at the school which was so instrumental in helping them to grow into the people they are today.

I often tell people how fortunate I am to have the opportunity to be involved with young people over the span of so many years. The amazing dancers you will read about in this newsletter (and in the February edition) go way back in my life and my memories of them are as clear as the day I first saw them in my classes. Some were in pink (5 year old Pre-Primary students), some in blue (6 year old Primary students), and some a little older, but I can see each in my mind's eye and remember holding their tiny hands and hearing their childish voices as I led them through their early experiences with dance. I remember noticing Aliya's energy as I observed her running circles around her parents' legs as we conversed, Ethan doing his pony rhythm claps with such precision and commitment, Camille learning to point and flex her little feet while practicing sitting up very straight, and Jessie sometimes coming to class very sleepy but always waking up because she loved to dance so much. I remember Kenna, as a slight little pink girl, always sweet and large eyed, taking her dancing so seriously. Marissa, when she first joined us in Level Four Ballet, dancing as a snow goose; each movement was so meaningful and fluid I couldn't wait to be part of her ballet training. Pilar joined us doing a mix of Level One and Two and I remember comparing notes about her with another teacher; we were both excited about having the opportunity to help this talented young lady develop her gifts. I remember Robin doing her skips as a Primary with such lightness,

musicality and strength and noting how seriously she took dancing for such a young girl. I knew, with each of these dancers, that there was much talent to develop and I was eager to dive in and make it happen.

Other memories that stand out in my mind from their later childhood years include seeing some of them proudly posing for photos before their Royal Academy of Dancing examinations and taking master classes with Seth Orza and Sarah Ricard (New York City Ballet and Pacific Northwest Ballet) who noted their talent even then. I can remember them in many pieces of choreography, some mine, some others.

I remember special events such as performing for a variety of tours and venues, trips to New York City to perform, compete or study, and watching them in classes at competitions and summer programs. In recent years, I learned to treat them as mature young people on their way to adulthood; young people with amazing work ethics, strong opinions, and incredible dedication and significant capacity for mature artistic expression. Now, I share a little bit of their parents' pride in seeing who they have become

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RelevéRelevé

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Donating to Amherst Ballet

by Andrea Leibson

In these tough economic times, we are most grateful to the donors to Amherst Ballet. There are several ways to give.

The home page of our website (www.amherstballet.org) has a **Donate Button** on it. By clicking on the button, you can make a donation to AB on-line using a credit card OR a PayPal account. Just choose the credit card or PayPal option and follow the prompts. The donation goes directly into our account and we are sent an email reporting the name of the donor and amount of donation – so we can thank you for your generosity!

You may transfer **UMassFive College Federal Credit Union Co-op Points** to Amherst Ballet. This will allow us to receive a more favorable interest rate on our certificate of deposit. Every penny helps! If you'd like to transfer Co-op Points to Amherst Ballet, please call to speak with business manager Andrea who will give you the information you'll need to transfer points. It can be done with a very quick call to the credit union.

You may donate to AB through the **UMass Amherst Community Campaign** (UMACC), the workplace giving program designed with University of Massachusetts, Amherst employees in mind. UMass employees may give through payroll deduction, direct payments (cash, check, credit card) or through the transfer of stock. To donate to Amherst Ballet Theater Company indicate **code #687533** on your pledge card. If you have already sent in

your pledge form but would like to change your designations, you may do so by calling the UMACC office at 577-1101.

You may contribute specifically to one of our **scholarship funds**.

The **Young Dancer Scholarship Fund** was established in 2001 by a 13 year old AB dancer. In appreciation for the joy she experienced in class and performance, this dancer donated a portion of her Bat Mitzvah gift money to establish a scholarship to provide young dancers the same opportunity. Contributions to this fund have included another generous donation by an Upper School student upon celebrating her Bat Mitzvah. We have awarded between 2 and 7 Young Dancer scholarships totaling \$750 in each of the last three years and have nearly depleted the fund. In order to continue this scholarship we will need to replenish it before August. Please help spread the joy of dance to elementary-aged children by contributing to this scholarship fund.

The **Maura Donohue Fund** which provides scholarships to dancers who don't qualify for the Young Dancer Scholarship. This scholarship fund was created from donations received by Amherst Ballet upon the death of Maura Donohue, daughter of Amherst Ballet founder Therese Donohue. Maura had been an integral part of Amherst Ballet as a student, performer, pianist and receptionist.

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and where they are going in life. I feel confidence while watching them and knowing that new cohorts of young people much like them will walk through our door and find success in whatever they choose.

Other exciting news: Amherst Ballet has been invited to perform again with the Pioneer Valley Symphony (PVSO) this March, following our annual repertoire performances at Bowker Auditorium. We are excited to collaborate with this distinguished group of local musicians under the leadership of Music Director and Conductor Paul Phillips. The PVSO has asked us to be part

of their "Take Five!" programming: This season the symphony will present five concerts featuring five symphonies, with Amherst Ballet creating choreography to the Andante con moto and Allegro vivace movements of Schubert's 5th Symphony as part of a PVSO family concert on March 26 at Greenfield High School. AB's Senior Instructor Sueann Townsend is creating contemporary choreography on 12 dancers to the 2nd movement, Andante, while I am creating ballet choreography for 18 dancers both on and off pointe to the 4th movement, the Allegro.

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Special Fundraiser for last May's Performances

Last April we gave a unique fundraiser to support a new dance piece conceived and choreographed by Senior Director Sueann Townsend. Inspired by objects she had seen at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Sueann created *Krater, Ewer, Amphora*. Because these ancient vessels were intended to hold wine, water and olive oil, we held a fundraising tasting of these liquids at the home of board member Ted Trobaugh.

Business manager Andrea Leibson arranged for a tasting of seven olive oils from around the Mediterranean and one from California for contrast. Former Board member Jack Wileden arranged about 30 bottles of wine brought by the attendees by grape varietal; it was fascinating discerning the differences among chardonnays from Israel, Spain and France. Sueann spoke about the origins of her Middle-Eastern inspired dance piece and her intention to include the music of Massachusetts-based Arabic music ensemble, Layaali, at the May performances. Director Catherine Fair spoke about AB's long history of dance education and performance.

The tasting was fun, educational and inspired one attendee to sponsor Layaali's performance! And we were trendsetters: The May issue of *Bon Appétit* magazine included an olive oil tasting featuring one of the oils from Italy deemed most delicious by some of our attendees. As for tasting the waters from towns around the Amherst region – with olive oil and wine to taste – no one was very interested in drinking water!



◀ *In the Woods and Fields of Amherst, from Emily of Amherst at New York Botanical Garden*

▼ *Chopiniana*
photos: Chris Eliot



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Heidi Stemple
Sueann Townsend
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We are both truly enjoying the process of creating new works for such an exciting venue and look forward to having the opportunity to see our works performed to the live music of the Pioneer Valley Symphony!

For a preview of this choreography as part of our "works in process" series, audiences are invited to attend our Upper School Presentation, on Saturday December 11 at the Amherst Regional Middle School at 7:00pm. There audiences will also have the chance to see a preview of some of

our Youth American Grand Prix (YAGP) competitors' solo variations, both classical and contemporary. This year, six dancers from AB are headed to the U.S. Regional Semi-Finals, dancing a range of variations from the ballets *La Bayadere*, *Les Sylphides*, *Coppelia* and *Sleeping Beauty*. We are excited about their progress and passion for dancing, and can't wait to accompany them as they put themselves forward to be judged by distinguished professionals from the world of international ballet! For an update on how they fare, check our February newsletter.

A Recipe for Success *Hansel & Gretel*

A new ballet based on the Grimm Brothers' tale as illustrated by artist Lizbeth Zwerger

by Anne Brossard

Ingredients:

- one picture book with engaging illustrations
- one commission from a museum
- one agile choreographer/director/teacher
- a pinch of musical scores
- hundreds of dollars worth of donated set materials from local businesses
- nineteen eager dancers ranging from 7 to 17 years old
- a handful of the diverse talents of parents and colleagues
- one week-long summer workshop
- lots of rehearsals

History: Last spring, Amherst Ballet was commissioned by the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art to create a ballet to celebrate their exhibition of *Lizbeth Zwerger's illustrations, An Exquisite Vision: The Art of Lizbeth Zwerger*. The ballet featured the imaginative choreography of our very own director, Ms. Fair. Over the summer, nineteen of our dancers, between the ages of 7 and 17, rehearsed long hours to bring the ballet, set to the music of a variety of composers including Rimsky-Korsakov, Wagner, Humperdinck and Saint-Saens, to life. Not only did these talented and determined kids dance, but they helped to create sets and costumes!

Preparation: After holding auditions, Ms. Fair designed a week long workshop in July, modeled after Amherst Ballet's summer camps, to shape the music and choreography for the *Hansel & Gretel* ballet with her dancers. The older students in the lead roles worked in the studio from 9:00 to 4:00 every day and the younger students came each afternoon. While some students worked in the upper studio with Ms. Fair learning and shaping the dances, other showed an awe of power tools and wielded paintbrushes to help Leigh Dunlap, a local artist and parent volunteer, create sets that hauntingly looked like life size book illustrations by Lizbeth Zwerger (thanks to donations from Cowls Building Supply, Lowe's and The Home Depot). Others worked carefully detailing and creating costumes with another parent volunteer, Heidi Stemple, whose creations looked as if

they came right off the characters in the book. The witch's costume, complete with an armature that mimicked the witch's hump back, was created by Amherst Ballet's senior instructor and, apparently, structural engineer extraordinaire, Sueann Townsend. At the end of this week, the basic elements of the ballet were in place.

Combine ingredients: Over the month of August, the students came for rehearsals and with each week's passing, the dance, the score and the costumes wove together to tell the Grimm Brothers' fairy tale through dance. The final rehearsals at the museum brought a few surprises that required some rapid adjustments: making the choreography tighter in order to fit the very small stage, teaching backstage manners to the youngest

students relatively new to performing, tweaking mobile scenery to move safely on the stage.

Presentation: On Saturday August 28th, the first performance of *Hansel & Gretel* opened to a full house at the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art. Despite the small stage and a near collision of moving scenery, the audience was charmed. Before the ballet started, a slide show of Lizbeth Zwerger's *Hansel and Gretel* illustrations set the stage. When the dancers entered, you could hear the audience gasp as they saw the illustrations in three dimensions.



"Gingerbread" children
photo: Zulma Rivera

The small stage made the dancer's legs appear to stretch beyond the horizon while their movements evoked larger than life emotions. The excitement from the littlest birds (the youngest dancers!) was as tangible as the bread crumbs they picked off the stage. Like the gingerbread people transformed into awed, dancing children, the production brought the story of *Hansel and Gretel* fully to life. The dancers went on stage again that afternoon and twice the following day to bring the picture book to life for each new audience.

Even after the last applause, the dancers continued to bask in their excitement, their new friendships, and their awed and tired feet with a few last photographs on stage. Older dancers

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News From a Special AB Alum!

We are proud of all of our alums, and are especially proud of Sarah Ricard Orza who was recently promoted to soloist with the Pacific Northwest Ballet. Sarah and husband Seth Orza (also with PNB) are known to AB students for their guest teaching during recent summers. To read more about Sarah and to see her in a variety of beautiful dance photos, log onto the PNB website (where you'll also see Amherst Ballet mentioned in Sarah's bio!) at:

<http://www.pnb.org/Artists/Soloists/SarahRicardOrza.aspx#Biography>
Here's what Sarah has to say herself:

I have been extremely blessed in my career as a professional dancer. On my 18th birthday I joined the corps of the New York City Ballet, fulfilling a dream I'd had since I was 10 years old. I danced with them for 7 years, traveling with the company to places like Russia, Greece, Italy and Japan. I danced over 40 ballets, by the some of the world's greatest choreographers, among them George Balanchine and Jerome Robbins. After leaving NYCB and taking a year off from dance, my husband and I are now settled on the West Coast, dancing for the Pacific Northwest Ballet, under the direction of Peter Boal, a former colleague and Principal



Pacific Northwest Ballet's Sarah Ricard Orza photo: © Angela Sterling

dancer at NYCB. This past July I was promoted to the rank of Soloist, fulfilling another life-long dream. I encourage all young dancers with fire in their hearts and a passion to dance, to follow their dreams! The life of a dancer is certainly hard - at times brutal, painful and heartbreaking; yet it is fulfilling and awe-inspiring and often pure magic. I can't imagine doing anything else!

Hansel & Gretel, continued from previous page

posed with younger ones. As the stage emptied, the younger dancers portrayed their older favorite characters, trying out what it might be like to be in a leading role one day.

Clean up: Once emptied, parents and staff stepped in to disassemble the magic created on stage. Sets were dismantled, the dance floor rolled up, the music CDs retrieved, the lighting booth locked. All costumes, props and materials were packed up and sent back to the studio. But the rewards of the experience — for the dancers, for everyone who worked on the show, for everyone who watched the performance — remain. The magic of the story brought to life on that small stage reverberates with the wonder of what can be brought to life in our world...it is almost as fantastical as children escaping from a witch's spell in a picture book.

Further plans: Amherst Ballet is planning on taking *Hansel & Gretel* on tour. We hope that this storybook come-to-life will be shown at local elementary schools this spring — keep a look out!



Summer Program at AB
photo: Libby Stanforth

News From Dancers, Aliya, Camille & Ethan



by Karen Schweitzer

This past spring, Amherst Ballet saw the first three students from its new pre-professional program leave in order to pursue their goals of becoming professional dancers. Aliya Cycon left to study at the Kirov Academy in Washington, D.C. Camille Kemache is studying at the Académie Américaine de Danse de Paris, and Ethan Schweitzer-Gaslin is studying at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts in their high school program. Aliya, Camille and Ethan all started dancing at Amherst Ballet as very young children. During their eleven years at Amherst Ballet, the three dancers shared many experiences, and their tenure coincides with that of Amherst Ballet's director, Catherine Fair. Each of the dancers shared memories and talked about what they learned at Amherst Ballet and about how Amherst Ballet prepared them for their current endeavors.

Aliya spoke of the foundation of artistry that Mrs. Fair provided them. She saw that foundation as a building block and without it, she says, "we wouldn't have been able to have anything on top of that...[b]allet dancing is art—it's a physical activity but it's art. Choreography and all of these things all come together to make this beautiful art form and when I think of that I think of *The Arctic* performance or *Emily of Amherst*. That something was created out of nothing and it became this beautiful piece of artwork and some ballet schools don't have that."

Ethan remarked that "I was thinking about focus and concentration and I think I really got that from training at Amherst Ballet. At AB you have the freedom to work as hard as you want and you can run with that...[AB] Teachers will help you to work as hard as you want, not just in general but in each class... they notice who's working. It's not about mandated discipline but developing self-discipline. So once you go somewhere else you can use that discipline to do what you need to do."

All three dancers spoke about YAGP and commented on the important role that YAGP played for them. Camille talked about the variation she did the first year. "The variation was especially hard for me, because it required stamina and strength that I didn't have, but it really helped me to grow in maturity and technique." Of the next year she said, "[Mrs. Fair] took me seriously, pushed me to work to my maximum, and made sure that in every session I had successes. I am so grateful, because after the competition I could really see the difference working so closely with Mrs. Fair had made; I could do a manège around



◀ **Aliya Cycon**
photo: courtesy of Kirov Academy

▲ **Ethan Schweitzer-Gaslin**
photo: Cynthia DelConte, Day for Night Productions

▶ **Camille Kemache**
photo: Chris Eliot



the studio; I could hop on pointe; and most importantly I felt that I was ready for more.” Working with Sueann on her contemporary piece she remarked, “I felt that I had to work and think a lot for myself, because I was being taken for a serious and mature student. The choreographer had done her job and it was time then for me, the dancer, to work on perfecting and appropriating her work. I had never worked liked this, but I am so thankful, because I see now that she introduced me to a way of working that resembles that of the professional dance world.” (Note: As I am writing this, Camille is participating with her school in YAGP in Paris.)

Ethan echoed some of that sentiment as he talked about working with Sueann to create his contemporary variation for YAGP noting, “[h]ow much we collaborated, that we both had an equal role in the creation — that was new for me, to hold my own reins. That’s what made it so much fun to dance: it was fun to dance...because I had so much control

over the creation of what I was dancing.”

Aliya talked about how YAGP was the turning point for her in choosing dance as a career. “YAGP the first year was the impetus for my pursuit of professional dance. Getting to be in the studio for hours at a time and working really hard and working individually to perfect a piece...we spent every day in the studio just working and working and that was like the first taste of company life... being in a studio for hours at a time and realizing that I don’t get sick of it, I love it, it makes me happy. I started to consider pursuing a life that would be like that.” Aliya and Camille also spoke about AB’s pre-professional program. Camille said it, “allowed me to split my

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Graduating Senior, Jessie Duda

by Andrea Leibson

Jessie Duda has been coming to Amherst Ballet even before she started dancing in Creative Movement when she was 3 years old. I remember her watching her older sister Liz through the little window that overlooks the downstairs studio when she was just a toddler. Jessie couldn't wait to dance!

For Jessie, dancing is her way to relax and stay fit – which is impressive when you know that Jessie is also quite an athlete who has been a member of the cross country and Ultimate Frisbee teams at Amherst Regional High. Jessie says, “It takes my mind off things and helps me connect to the music. I really like the way I feel after I dance and all that it has taught me about hard work, discipline, and artistry.”

And Jessie knows about artistry, discipline and hard work. She studies three languages (Arabic, Russian and Spanish) and plays violin in the Amherst Regional High School Orchestra in addition to taking private violin lessons; she has also played in the Western Massachusetts District Orchestra. Jessie has choreographed and danced in the school musical for the last two years and plans to again this year.

Jessie is committed to service in this community and beyond. She tutors kids in reading in Holyoke. She started a club at ARHS called Opportunities for Communities which supports work in Haiti and Guatemala. And Jessie has been to the Dominican Republic and Guatemala working on a composting project that puts teenagers to work reducing the size of the world's second largest dump, creating compost for sale to farmers that earns them enough money to continue their educations.

Jessie also finds time to dance at AB. She says, “AB has been a little family that I will always have...they are exceptional,



photo: Catherinfair

accepting people, and so talented!” Jessie remarks that “I will always remember backstage during the shows, hanging out with everyone. I will always remember Sueann and how happy she is to have me back even when it's been a while, and my classes with Ms. Fair when I was little.” While Jessie is a fan of her Hip-Hop class at AB she says “ballet will always be my number one.” Her favorite roles were portraying the Irish servant in *Emily of Amherst*, dancing in the corps of *Don Quixote* and being a slithery fish in *Shim Chung*.

Jessie is in the throes of searching for the right college to attend to further her education. She plans to study international relations and languages and continuing her service work in Guatemala. And “I plan to keep dancing on the side in college.” However many sides she has, we know Jessie will approach them with her usual joy, determination and enthusiasm.

Where are They Now:

There was a lovely photo of **Sarah Ricard Orza** and great review of the Pacific Northwest Ballet's performances at the Joyce Theater in the *New York Times* in January...**Shari** (nee Mazor) **McDaid** sent us an email saying that she's now living in Dublin Ireland. She danced at AB in the 1970s and still possesses newspaper clippings from AB performances she participated in...**Jessica Rindone** (Sibley), our beautiful Odette/Odile in *Swan Lake*, is dancing part-time with Cirque du Soleil as well as with the Orlando Ballet...**Melanie Lahti** ('02) is now working in New York. She visited AB last winter while she was home for the holidays from her clarinet studies at the Sibelius Academy in Finland; she was in Helsinki on a Fulbright Foreign Scholarship. The previous summer she was a semifinalist at the Maine International Competition...**Lucy Segar** ('04) is now teaching elementary school in Brooklyn and doing performance art when she can squeeze it in...**Mariel Adams** ('08) participated in Amherst's 250th Anniversary Gala which had music popular from the 1920s to the present. She and her mom Alison Ozer served as "motivational" dancers to show party guests the moves for the Charleston and the Lindy Hop...**Margaret Woodbridge** ('06) has graduated from the Coast Guard Academy and is



Photo: Ethan Fair

stationed in Seattle when she's not at sea in a polar ice breaker...**Meghan Oefinger** (Aslan in *The Magician's Nephew* in 2000) visited Amherst this fall with her fiancé. They had dinner with founder **Therese Donohue** and director **Catherine Fair** and her son **Ethan** (see the photo by Ethan, below)...**Danielle McDowell** came to visit last April. She danced at AB in the early 90's. She's now an EMT in the Boston area and a part of Cupcake Charlies.

Aliya, Ethan & Camille from page 7

days between academics and ballet, helped me to better my technique in a one-on-one environment, as well as prepare me for the more intense schedule I would eventually follow. I feel that I was more able to focus on the things I had difficulties with, and receive instruction that was individualized... I most enjoyed being able to work beside other students (Ethan, Marianne, Marissa, and Aliya) that shared the same goals and work ethic as myself." Aliya was in agreement when she said, "I was concentrated in a class with other people at Amherst Ballet who really took it seriously as a career. Being with those people in class was like a totally different experience because we were all really working really hard and we were all there for the same reason." Ethan felt that his most professional experiences at AB were in the large Level B classes, where he could be in a corner and just work really hard for himself. "You know what's important, you work on what you are doing for yourself."

For these dancers, Amherst Ballet was not just about preparing for a professional career. As Aliya said, "It was a really good balance of having integrity with...training

and with the performances... without being a high pressure, strictly regimented environment. [The dancers at AB] really enjoy dancing and you can tell. There's no stress or pain behind it. We have dancers at Amherst Ballet who have stuck around because you don't really have burnout there as much as other places."

Favorite Amherst Ballet roles for these dancers? For Camille: the French variation from *The Nutcracker*; the snow goose from *The Arctic*; the *Hungarian Dance*; *Trio*; *5 Elements*; her YAGP variations; *Krater*, *Ewer*, *Amphora*; *Chopiniana* and the NY tour of *Emily of Amherst*. For Ethan: the fish from *Shim Chung*; *Chopiniana*; Jewels from *Sleeping Beauty* and Peter from *Peter and the Wolf*. Aliya also listed *Chopiniana* as a favorite role, along with the NY tour of *Emily of Amherst*. She said that it made her feel like a professional dancer going on tour.

The dancers spoke about where they are now. Aliya says that, "I wanted to be in a place full of dancers and full of people who are kind of obsessed with ballet... where people understood that ballet was my priority not school work. But I wanted to be doing something intellectual, which I am here, but that I am actually interested

in. It turned out that I am getting exactly that." She says she has more time for piano and other things and that is a surprise benefit. Camille has to make her way around Paris going from a public high school in the 9th district to the dance academy in the 6th district. Of his experience at UNCSEA, Ethan says, "There are so many different arts students here. Everyone is always playing music, jamming and creating together. As an artist it opens up the way I look at art and the world. It makes you a better dancer if you have more things to pull from. It's so creative all the time!"

Finally, the advice they have for other dancers. Aliya says, "Don't be afraid of wanting to pursue dance if you love it because it took me such a long time to admit to myself that that's what I wanted to do. Don't be afraid to take a leap of faith and really go after something. Just believe that you can do it." Ethan concurs. "DO IT! If you want to dance go different places to dance. And let yourself do different things. It's been really good for me to get out more and experience different things, not just dance but everything!"



Amherst Ballet
29 Strong Street
Amherst, MA 01002

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Therese Brady Donohue *Founder*

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Upcoming Events

MON, NOVEMBER 15	DEAN'S BEANS COFFEE FUNDRAISER begins; ends Dec. 7
NOVEMBER 23 – 27	No classes. Thanksgiving. Classes meet Monday November 22
FRI, DECEMBER 3	CLASSES MEET in spite of Amherst Schools Curriculum Day
SAT, DECEMBER 11	UPPER SCHOOL PRESENTATION 7:00pm, Amherst Regional Middle School Auditorium. Lower School and public invited.
DECEMBER 13 – 18	VISITORS' WEEK for Lower School. Parents attend classes.
DEC 20 – JAN 2	School Vacation. No regular classes
MON, JANUARY 17	No classes. Martin Luther King Day
FRI, JANUARY 28	CLASSES MEET in spite of Amherst Schools Curriculum Day
FRI – SUN, FEB 18 – 20	20 YAGP COMPETITION, Torrington, CT
SAT, FEBRUARY 19	CLASSES DO MEET
FEBRUARY 21 – 26	School Vacation
FEBRUARY 22 – 25	VACATION CAMP for ages 5 – 12. Details TBA
SAT, MARCH 12	Mandatory Repertoire rehearsals
SUN, MARCH 13	Mandatory Repertoire rehearsals
THUR, MARCH 17	NO CLASSES except Creative Movement. Tech rehearsal, Bowker Auditorium
FRI, MARCH 18	NO CLASSES except Level 1. Rehearsal for Upper School, Bowker Auditorium.
SAT, MARCH 19	All LOWER SCHOOL rehearsals, Bowker Auditorium; 9:00am–noon Performances of LOWER SCHOOL CLASS DANCES and UPPER SCHOOL REPERTOIRE, Bowker Auditorium, 2:00pm and 7:00pm.
SAT, MARCH 26	Performance with PVSO, Greenfield High School, 7:00pm