IMPORTANT CALENDAR REMINDERS AND UPDATES

May 6: Blood Drive - 1:00-6:00 pm (see below)

May 10: Semi-Formal Dance
7:00-10:00 pm (see below)

May 16: Spring Concert at Memorial Hall in Shelburne Falls - 7:00 pm

THE BLOOD DRIVE

Our Annual Red Cross Blood Drive will take place on Monday, May 6th from 1:00-6:00 pm. Students were given sign-up slips, and we hope that you will be able to take part in this important event. Not only does each pint of blood donated save up to three lives, but we also aim to fully book each blood drive that we host, as doing so rewards our seniors with scholarship money for college.

We encourage you to make an appointment to give blood, either by filling out the pink sign-up form or by calling the Main Office at (413) 339-4912. You can help spread the word about the drive as well, via a Facebook event page.

THE SEMI IS COMING!

The Academy's semi-formal dance will take place on May 10th from 7-10 pm at the
Shelburne-Buckland Community Center. All students are welcome to attend and to bring a guest if they so choose. It is important to know that this is not a prom - students are not expected to bring a date. We also emphasize the "semi" in semi-formal: it's a dressy event, but it's not one for which students should feel they need to purchase new clothes. Questions on The Semi should be directed to Stephanie Purington.

**ANNUAL FUND REMINDER**

We're grateful for the Annual Fund support of parents and other family members, as we work to meet our $200,000 goal before the close of the Fiscal Year on June 30.

As a reminder, Trustees have asked each family to give or raise $1000 toward that goal.

For those of you who have already done so, we thank you. For those that are still working on it, we are pleased to help if you need us. Contact the development office if you'd like materials or other support.

To date, we've raised about $150,000 in gifts and pledges. Your help to close the gap is important.

Thanks to all for supporting The Academy, in many ways.

**SPRING BENEFIT CONCERT A GREAT SUCCESS!**

On Friday, April 26th, Erin McKeown performed a CD release show for our Spring Benefit Concert at Memorial Hall. It was a wonderful evening, thanks to the tireless efforts of many parent and student volunteers (and all of the fabulous bakers among you), not to mention the remarkable talents of our student musicians who opened for and then played on stage with Erin. Special thanks to Dave Chalfant, Gayle Kabaker, Rachel Simpson, Patricia Donohue, Sara Wein, Diane Bigelow and Rebekah Boyd-Owens for all you did to make the event such a great success.

**COMMENCEMENT - JUNE 1 - 3:00 PM**

The Academy's 32nd Commencement will be held Saturday, June 1 at 3:00 PM. It is the school's tradition to honor the graduating senior class and the eighth grade students who are being promoted to the Senior School. We therefore expect all students to attend graduation. A reception will follow the graduation ceremony.
Traditionally, parents contribute the following items:
Grades 7 & 8: cookies, brownies or finger desserts
Grades 9, 10 & 11: cheese & crackers, veggies & dip, fruit
Food can be dropped off in the Common Room when you arrive on campus for graduation. Beverages will be provided.
Thank you!

ADMISSIONS UPDATE AND BACK-TO-SCHOOL POTLUCK PICNICS

We're pleased to report that to date we have 13 new seventh grade students for next fall, as well as two new eighth graders, three ninth grade students, and two tenth graders. They all will be wonderful additions to our community and we look forward to welcoming them in September.

We still have several applicants in the pipeline for a variety of grades and are actively looking for international students, too (see Madame Mauri’s appeal for host families).

Although it seems like a long way off, some back-to-school picnics have already been scheduled! We'll welcome new families at these events, so please mark your calendars for these:

- August 28    8th Grade (at The Academy, 5:30 - 7:30 PM)
- August 29    7th Grade (at The Academy, right after Registration)
- August 30    11th Grade (time and place still to be determined)
- September 1  9th Grade (hosted by the Thayer/Rioux Family, time TBA)

More information will be forthcoming as plans are finalized for these and other grades. If you're interested in hosting, please contact Martha Tirk.

OUR NEW AND IMPROVED LIBRARY

The Academy at Charlemont Library (The Rees Reading Room) is dedicated to being a dynamic center for inquiry and learning by providing resources to support the curriculum, enhance personal development, and to encourage the pleasure of reading and learning.

To further that mission the library has been digitized! A new era is upon us, and things are changing. Very soon, the way that students check out books will involve beeps and
barcodes. Links to area libraries have been created, the information from all of our own books is in a database, so looking up information will be much easier and more comprehensive than ever before.

To search The Academy at Charlemont's Library catalog, click here. The login is Charlemont, and there is no password.

All of this and more is available at our new library page on our website.

THE ACADEMY'S PET POLICY

Now that our fields are finally snow-free and as spring fever begins to consume us all, please be reminded of our pet policy:

**Animals at The Academy**

The following guidelines need to be followed if animals are to be allowed in buildings and on campus.

- Dogs must be leashed at all times inside the buildings and outside in the vicinity of the buildings.
- When the campus is not hosting a major event (athletic events, graduation, exhibition etc.), pets may be walked off leash at the outer perimeters of campus, provided that any messes are removed.
- Pet owners who bring their pets to school are responsible for the behavior of their animals. Owners are responsible for any messes their pet may create.
- Disposable bags are provided for cleanup outside. They are located near the main entrance.
- Animals in the classroom are the responsibility of the classroom teacher.
- Teachers must make certain that animals in classrooms pose no threat to anyone and that no one is allergic. Families should be notified when any animal will be brought into or housed in a classroom, or taken on a field trip.
- No animal may be brought into the classroom without prior consent of the classroom teacher.
- The classroom teacher is responsible for feeding, caring for and cleaning up after the animal.
- All animals need to be kept in a secure, appropriate living container. At no time should any animal be allowed to roam free in the school.
BOOK SALE AND ATHLETIC GEAR SWAP

The Academy's parent-run used book sale is tentatively scheduled for July 28 here at school. More information will follow as textbook and book requirements for the 2013-2014 school year are finalized. Phoebe Walker organizes the book sale and will provide updates via the Bulletin as we move toward the end of the term.

In conjunction with this event, we'd like to determine interest in an athletic gear swap. In the past, parents have found a swap to be helpful. As your children grow out of their cleats, shin guards, lacrosse pads, baseball gloves, etc., would you be interested in trading for larger sizes - or even donating these kinds of items for use by younger children? Please let us know! If you're interested, or if you'd like to help by promoting and organizing a swap, please contact Nora Bates Zale.

HOSTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2013-2014

In the international admissions process, we are meeting with several organizations to discuss potential students for next year. We're also starting to wonder which Academy families might be interested in hosting one of our international students. To become a host family requires a great deal of thought and candid discussion of hopes and expectations, as well as discussion between interested families and The Academy. We invite ALL of you to give some thought to this opportunity. We expect to have up to seven full-year international students from a variety of countries next year, along with the two 10th grade German students through our annual Charlemont-Erding exchange in November and December. This opportunity is open only to Academy families with rising sophomores.

Please contact Sabine Mauri to learn more.

HBH MENU

Click here for the current HBH Menu.

PEER TUTORING BY SENIORS

Seniors are offering a peer tutoring program, open to all students at The Academy. Students may sign up at school for help during posted hours in a particular subject, or with a project or essay. This program is a part of Richard Selleck's Senior Independent Project. Parents may want to consider suggesting this option to students with struggles in a
certain subject.

Final exams will be upon us soon - this is a great time to schedule an appointment with a tutor. For questions contact Richard Selleck.

**DANIEL PAC’S TUTORING SERVICES**

Daniel Pac is offering tutoring services to Academy families. Mr. Pac currently teaches Pre-Algebra and Music, and offers one-on-one tutoring in Math, Science, English, and History. Tutoring sessions may also focus on study skills, organization, and developing academic strategies for students with ADHD and other diagnosed learning challenges. Whenever possible, he will tutor students at school during one of their free periods. Please contact Mr. Pac directly for more information.

**THE ACADEMY ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER**

Keep up with what's happening at The Academy on our Facebook page. "Like" us to stay up-to-date and join the conversation. On Twitter? We're tweeting, too! Follow us @Aardvarks01339.