

**Student Parent Program April Newsletter*****What is happening in Student Parent Programs in April?***

- **Student Parent Programs Spring 2023 Child Care Subsidy Applications close 4/5/23.** If you haven't already applied for our Spring child care subsidy, you have until Wednesday 4/5/23 to do so. Applicants will be notified of the amount they have qualified for by 4/14/23. See [here](#) for more information about our child care subsidy program and to find the application links.
  
- Are you graduating during the 2022-2023 academic year? **If you completed your degree or are intending to complete your degree between September 2022 and August 2023, please complete our [Student Parent Graduation Survey](#)** – we want to celebrate your achievement and we have graduation gifts for you and your kids!
  
- **Support Groups for Student Parents ([more info and Zoom links here](#)):**
  - New Parent Support Group – Noon-1pm via Zoom, April meetings 4/4, 4/18
  - Single Parent Support Group - Noon-1pm via Zoom, April meetings 4/13, 4/27
  - Student Parent Support Group –7:30pm-9pm via Zoom, 4/3, meets the first Monday of each month

**April SPP Events:**

- **[Spring Egg Hunt](#) MOVED TO SUNDAY 4/2 DUE TO SATURDAY'S WEATHER FORECAST**

Student Parent Programs and Off Campus Student Life collaborate to host an event to kick off the start of Spring! A common seasonal activity is to hold an “egg hunt” where kids participate in looking for hidden treat-filled eggs. We will also have several games, activities and crafts for the kids! This event will be held in downtown Amherst at Kendrick Park. For more details and to sign-up, please click the link above!

- **Student Parent Study Lounges-** Need time to study or catch up on work in a welcoming space? Our kid-friendly study lounge provides you with dedicated time to focus on work while your kids engage in a play/ craft space. Bring your laptops, get some work done and enjoy a delicious free

meal! Space is limited, so please take a minute to complete a registration form for each event date you are interested in attending. Click the dates below for details and to sign up

- [Study Lounge March 30<sup>th</sup>](#) - @ University Village Community Center
- [Study Lounge April 13<sup>th</sup>](#) - @ Barlett Hall Student Parent Programs
- [Study Lounge April 20<sup>th</sup>](#) - @ Barlett Hall Student Parent Programs

*In recognition of Ramadan, we will have to-go containers available for those who are fasting to take food home.*

➤ [Student Parent Programs Cultural Potluck \(April 29<sup>th</sup>\)](#)

Student Parent Programs is hosting an event to celebrate the cultures and community of our UMass student families! Please join us at the University Village Community Center for a Student Parent Potluck where we, along with any participating families, will be bringing a dish to share! For those of you interested in sharing your favorite dish, we are excited to try it- use the link above to register for the event.

**Save the Dates:**

- Family Bike Event: **Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup>**
- Student Parent End of Year Celebration and Graduation: **Sunday May 28<sup>th</sup> 11am-2pm**

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## Campus Resources Spotlight

- ★ **Drop in WIC/SNAP application support: Wednesday, April 5, 2023.** Having challenges applying for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Nutrition Programs? Please visit the Off-Campus Student Center/Student Parent Programs monthly [drop-in sessions](#)

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- ★ [PET THERAPY DROP-IN GROUP](#)

“Stop by Center for Counseling and Psychological Health for the opportunity to spend time with a therapy dog alongside a small group of people! Visits with Rosie and George happen on a first-come basis. Interested participants can walk into the Middlesex building, check in with the front desk, and sign up for a 15-minute session.”

Dates:

**Monday, April 3, 2023**

2:15 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.

**Monday, April 10, 2023**

2:15 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.

**Monday, April 17, 2023**

2:15 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.

**Monday, April 24, 2023**

2:15 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.

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★ [UMass Student Legal Services Offices](#)

“We offer **FREE, CONFIDENTIAL** advice and/or referral in most legal matters affecting students, assisting them to identify and solve their legal problems. In certain limited circumstances we represent students in court.

We offer Walk in Notary Services Monday-Friday 9:00 am - 4:30 pm.”

*Services offered can be related to immigration, marriage, divorce, child custody, and more!*

- [ASK AN ATTORNEY FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS](#) - April 20 @3pm - 4pm
  - [ASK AN ATTORNEY FOR OFF CAMPUS STUDENTS](#) - April 26 @1pm – 2pm
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★ [GEO Health & Welfare Trust Fund Benefits news:](#)

- The grad employee **spring childcare reimbursement [application](#) deadline is May 31, 2023** for receipts from Jan-May 2023.
  - [Family Friendly Workspace](#): check out this quiet, comfortable place we created for grad employees to work when they have their kids with them on campus.
  - Grad employee parents are eligible to receive up to \$250 in [Outschool preK-12](#) course credits per child--if you'd like to access free online classes, camps and tutoring for your child, complete the [Outschool request form](#).
  - May Calm App Challenge: May is mental health month and we're celebrating with a challenge! Join us on May 3rd at 10 am for a [Facebook livestream introduction to Calm](#) and details about the challenge. We'll be giving away great prizes!
  - Calm offers incredible content for kids and families and grad employees can now [add Calm for up to five of their family members](#).
  - Family wellness costs: eligible wellness costs for your family (spouse/partner/children) are now eligible toward [your \\$225 reimbursement](#). Family members do not receive their own \$225 reimbursement. Your spouse, partner or child must be enrolled on your Trust Fund benefit plans in order to be eligible.
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★ The Mutual Aid Project-Thing Swap



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## Community Resources Spotlight

[Amherst and Pelham Kindergarten Online Registration](#)

[Amherst Community Connections – One Stop Resource Center](#)

At Amherst Community Connections participants work one-on-one with our advocates toward achieving a long-term goal of leading independent, stable, and productive lives. An overview of services and referrals they provide include:

- Assistance replacing personal documents such as a Social Security Card, Birth Certificate, or state ID or license
- Housing/ job search and application
- Shelter placement
- Free cellphone application
- Food stamps/fuel assistance
- Money for rent, bus fares, medications, or utilities
- Section 8 housing
- SSI/SSDI benefits
- Veteran benefits
- Debt/ Credit issues

- CORI issues
- Referral to mental health providers, crisis centers, detox services, and many other resources!

They are looking for Summer/Fall 2023 interns! 32 HOURS/WK in the SUMMER (8:30-3, starting June 1 ending July 28), and 12 HOURS/WK (8:30-12:30) in the FALL of 2023. Pay is \$15/hr. For more information, click [here](#).

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## Family Friendly Events and Outings

[Easter Egg Hunt & Hat Parade](#) -Buttery Book Park, South Hadley Sat, Apr 8 , 10 AM Free

[EGGSTRAVANGANZA at the Zoo in Forest Park](#) Springfield Sat, April 8 10am-4pm Adult: \$8, Child (ages 1-12): \$4

**Edible Book Festival @ UMass** – come vote for the best entry (entrée?) All visitors to the library are invited to view the entries from Noon-2 p.m. and cast a vote for Best in Show. Winners will be announced at 2 p.m., followed by eating of the entries. W. E. B. Du Bois Library, Floor 2, RECESS

[The People’s Science Fair @ UMass](#) Friday April 28th Noon-4pm Free. Goodell Lawn. This year’s fair will take place alongside the Student Farmers’ Market and the UMass Founders’ Day celebration.

[UMass Dash and Dine 5K](#) Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup> 11am - The “Fun Run” begins at 10AM prior to the start of the 5k, all kids 8 and younger are welcome to participate!

[The Eric Carle Museum, Word Play With The Center Dance Studio](#)

“Join The Center Dance Studio for creative movement and narrative dance inspired by picture books. Kids will love this interactive class that honors the reader, and storyteller, in all of us. Bring your imagination and your dancing feet!”

Recommended for children ages 3-6. Free with Museum admission. You can get free tickets for this museum at the North Amherst Library.

**Location:** The Eric Carle Museum, 125 W Bay Road, Amherst, MA 01002

**Date & Time:** April 7<sup>th</sup> @11am - 12pm

[Six Flags New England Opening Weekend](#)

“Six Flags New England, the Thrill Capital of New England opens for the season! Don’t miss out on celebrating the beginning of this season during Opening Weekend, plus get ready for all the events and surprises we’ll have in store for you.”

**Location:** Six Flags New England, 1623 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001

**Date & Time:** April 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>

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### April School Vacation Events in Western MA:

Here are a few highlights that may be fun to check out during the school vacation break 4/17-21:

- [Great Falls Discovery Center](#): 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls; Open Wednesday –Sundays @10am-4pm; this center features a natural, cultural and industrial history of the Connecticut River Watershed!
  - During the vacation week, there will be a StoryWalk Series and Investigation station where Eileen Spinelli will provide fun stories for kids ages 4-8. There will also be a scavenger hunt, outdoor bingo, and a memory game for kids of all ages!
- [Holyoke Heritage State Park](#): 221 Appleton Street, Holyoke; Wednesday-Sunday @12pm – 4pm; explore the city’s rich culture and industrial history!
  - Located in the same park as [the Children’s Museum](#), antique [Holyoke Merry-Go-Round](#), and [Volleyball Hall of Fame](#), so feel free to make a day(s) out of this!

Be sure to check local libraries for tickets and passes to many museums and state parks around the area! For free parking passes at state parks [here](#).

[The Zoo In Forest Park](#)

The Zoo in Forest Park will be open ALL WEEK from **10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** during both Massachusetts and Connecticut April vacation weeks. Tickets can be purchased at The Zoo gate upon arrival. If you have government assistance like SNAP, you can get tickets at a reduced price!

The Zoo is open on the following holidays:

- Conn. Spring Vacation: April 4/10 – 4/14
- Mass. Spring Vacation: April 4/17 – 4/21
- Easter

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We want your feedback! If you have information or resources that you think we should include in an upcoming newsletter, let us know!

We're here for you! If you have questions or need support, please reach out to our staff at [studentparent@Umass.edu](mailto:studentparent@Umass.edu) or call our office at (413)577-1005. Wishing you and your family health and peace.