



# PHOENIX NEWS

October 11, 2013

Greetings From The Principal,

Please join me on Monday, Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 A.M. for What's Brewing at HMTCA? *Coffee with the Principal.*

## **Curriculum Update:**

This year, HMTCA is focusing on the shift to the Common Core State Standards, with a keen focus on justification of an argument, one of the skills most important to college readiness. On May 8<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate student work at our first Annual Project Showcase. This new project format supports our school's focus on the Common Core and every middle school student will be required to complete a grade level project.

**6<sup>th</sup> grade students will participate in National History Day (NHD)**, a yearlong educational program that makes history come alive every day. Students learn about interesting issues, ideas, people, and events of their choosing. It is an exciting way to study history because students express what they have learned in a creative and original performance, documentary, paper, web site, or exhibit. Through NHD, students discover new insights while learning the skills and techniques of an historian. At the competitions, students have the opportunity to meet students from other schools, exchange ideas, and demonstrate the results of their work. Success in researching and producing an NHD entry may take students to the national contest held each June at the University of Maryland at College Park.

**7<sup>th</sup> grade students will complete an I-Search Project**, an individualized research project that allows students to deeply explore topics of interest. Through this unit, students will sharpen the essential research skills of gathering evidence, analyzing information, and evaluating sources. To build a foundation for college and career readiness, students will learn to use writing to demonstrate an understanding of the subjects they are investigating.

**8<sup>th</sup> grade students will complete a Science Fair (STEM) Project.** Hartford City STEM Expo Fair in May 2014.

**Net year, 12<sup>th</sup> graders will be required to complete a Capstone Project** to fulfill Graduation Requirements.

## **Coming soon to HMTCA: HMTCA STEM Club**

As the 20<sup>th</sup> century has faded into history, it took with it the old industrial economy where manufacturing jobs were plentiful for millions of people without a college education. The 21<sup>st</sup> century is built on an information economy in which new jobs not only require a college education, but also, some expertise in **the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math, collectively known as STEM.** In order to stay competitive in the global marketplace and provide our children with the best chances to succeed in life, we must steer more students to the STEM path.

To promote STEM education, HMTCA is offering an after school STEM Club for students in grades 6-8. Potential STEM projects for this year include designing: Building for Earthquakes; Space Vehicles; Roller Coasters; Water Purification System; Prosthetic Devices; and Eco-Friendly Dams.

All interested students are welcome to attend and become club members. Our first meeting will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 – 4:30 PM in Room 255. Members will be required to commit to the meeting schedule, forthcoming at the initial informational session, and are expected to complete one project which may be entered in the Hartford City STEM Expo Fair in May 2014.

For Information of the Common Core State Standards in CT go to: <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2618&q=322592>

## Sports at HMTCA

### SPORTS RESULTS

High School Boys Soccer	3-2-2
High School Girls Soccer	1-4-2
High School Girls Volleyball	1-2
Middle School Boys Soccer	5-1-1
Middle School Girls Soccer	3-1-1
Middle School Girls Volleyball	4-0



### SPORTS NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

**Winter Sports Information Session will be held on Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria.**

For the latest dates and times of upcoming games be sure to check out the school website.

EXCITING NEWS- We will be offering the following Winter Sports

- High School Boys and Girls Basketball
- High School Boys Swimming with Bulkeley
- High School Boys and Girls Indoor Track
- Middle School Boys and Girls Basketball
- Middle School Boys and Girls Indoor Track
- Middle School Boys and Girls Swimming

In order to participate in any winter sport, all sports forms are due into Mr. Leonard or Ms. Brauman by Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. This includes a current physical completed within the last calendar year and that does not expire before March 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Leonard and Ms. Brauman will collect paperwork on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. There will be no exceptions.

Next year will be the first time we will be able to offer Varsity Sports with some Junior Varsity squads as well Stay tuned for more information!



## Upcoming Events

### COLUMBUS DAY PARADE

Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> 10:30 AM  
Hartford

### WHAT'S BREWING AT HMTCA?

Coffee with the Principal  
Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup> 7:30-8:30 AM  
PD Room

### PSATs FOR 10<sup>TH</sup> AND 11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> 8:30 AM  
Sophomores and Juniors

### HMTCA HIGHSCHOOL INFORMATIONAL SESSION AND HIGH SCHOOL FAIR

Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 – 6:30 PM Info Session in PD Room  
6:30 – 8:00 PM High School Fair in Café

### ANTI-BULLYING ASSEMBLY

Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>  
6:30 PM Winter Sports Information Session

### BAND AT TRINITY COLLEGE FOOTBALL GAME

Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> 12:30 PM  
Trinity College Campus in Hartford

### GOVERNANCE COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup>  
5:30 PM  
PD Room

### UCONN COMES TO CAMPUS

Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> 1:00 PM  
Sophomores and Juniors

### HIGH SCHOOL EXAMS

Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup>

### END OF FIRST MARKING PERIOD

Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup>

**Deadline for the Fall Fund Raiser has been extended until Wednesday, Oct. 16th**

### FALL BOOK FAIR

Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup> – Friday, November 8th

## College Corner

### CELEBRATE COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS & AWARENESS MONTH AT HMTCA

#### High School Sophomores and Juniors

On Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> you have a unique opportunity to visit with and find out about **Eastern Connecticut State University**. They will be visiting our campus at 8:30 AM.

On Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> you will have another amazing opportunity. **The University of Connecticut** will be here at 1:00PM.

In order to take advantage of either campus visit, students must sign up with Ms. Tamburro at least one day in advance to obtain a pass. Don't miss these fabulous chances.

The PSAT test will be administered on Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> beginning at **8:30 AM SHARP!** Students, make sure you are on time, as you will not be admitted into the session once testing has begun.



## **PTO News**

The PTO had a fantastic time at the Foster Family Farm on October 9<sup>th</sup>. Families had the opportunity to go through the two, Ocean Adventure themed, corn mazes and then go on a hayride! It was a great way to welcome the fall season with family and friends.

The PTO is always looking for volunteers to help with their events, so if you are interested please contact one of the officers.

### **NEXT PTO MEETING**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>**

**6:30 PM CAFETERIA**



## **PTO Officers**

**President – Carmen Cotton**

[writercarm1@gmail.com](mailto:writercarm1@gmail.com)

**Treasurer – Nelson Ayanlaja**

**Vice President – Diane Yoder**

[yoder1@yahoo.com](mailto:yoder1@yahoo.com)

**Secretary – Marilianna Iduen**

[malduen@yahoo.com](mailto:malduen@yahoo.com)

## **Parent Information / Student Resources**

### **8TH GRADE PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND STUDENTS**

You are cordially invited to attend the HMTCA High School Informational Session and High School Fair on Wednesday, October 16th from 6:00 PM to 8:00PM.

- 6:00 – 6:30 will be the HMTCA High School Informational Session in the PD room directly next to the main office. This will be presented by Principal Biggs, Janice Andrews and various high school teachers. Find out what our high school has to offer and what you must do to remain at HMTCA for grades 9 through 12.
- 6:30 -8:00 will be the High School Fair in the cafeteria. You can explore various other high school opportunities. Learn about different magnet schools, private and parochial schools, as well as vocational school options, from representatives of schools around Connecticut.

**Make an informed decision about where you want to attend high school.**

## Community News



On Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> a group of HMTCA students, parents and COMPASS staff, participated in From Source to Sea, a service learning opportunity sponsored by The Nature Conservancy. They were impressed with our efforts and taught our volunteers the importance of being careful of what we do with our “waste”. Volunteers were prepared with gloves, bags, cherry-pickers and a determination to make our natural environment a clean, safe place for both the human and animal habitats in the area. Students discussed the need for people to respect the environment and the effect on our health and the health of the river, when trash and garbage are randomly dumped. It was a lot of hard work but the results were gratifying. COMPASS looks forward to even more participation at this service learning opportunity next year.

## Coming soon

Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> College Readiness and Career Preparation Workshop 5:30-6:30 PM  
Further details will be available soon!

## Band News



## HMTCA CAPTURES FIRST PLACE IN THE PARK ROAD PARADE

The Marching Phoenix Band just seems to get better and better. They won first place for bands, in the October 5<sup>th</sup> Park Road Parade in West Hartford. The parade organizers wanted to end the parade with a bang so they saved our band for last. It was evident from the crowd’s rousing reception that the kids did their job.

The week before, on September 27<sup>th</sup>, the band proudly marched in the Big E Parade in Springfield, Massachusetts. It was truly an honor to represent our school, our city and our state. The students were remarkable and were rewarded with some free time to explore the fair and yes, eat all of that crazy, greasy, fried food the Big E is famous for. They thoroughly enjoyed the memorable day.

Next on tap is the Columbus Day Parade which is Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> in Hartford at 10:30 AM followed by the football game at Trinity on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. It is a busy but fun schedule, so come out to one of the events and support the Marching Phoenix !



## **Book Reviews by Bengiovanni**

In each issue our library media specialist Mr. Bengiovanni will review two books from the HMTCA library.

### **Saving Arm Pit by Natalie Hyde**

From the book: "When vandals deface the Harmony Point sign, the town does indeed seem to become the "Arm Pit" of the region. The baseball team hasn't won a game in two seasons and the town itself is falling into disrepair. But when the new postmaster becomes the new ball coach, Clay and the rest of the Terriers finally seem to stand a chance of winning a game. Until they overhear a bureaucrat from the city say that the post office will close unless "the numbers" work out. The team begins "Operation Tennis Elbow": a letter-writing campaign designed to generate enough mail to keep the post office—and its postmaster—in town. And along the way, they learn the power of the pen in effecting positive changes in their community."

From Mr. Bengiovanni: "A quick enjoyable read, the book doesn't waste time developing characters and gets straight to the point: How can these kids generate more mail through their local post office? Halfway through the book, the reader notices that their efforts to save the post office are having a more profound effect on the community. The reader knows this well before the characters, who are focused on other efforts. In addition to teaching the rewarding message that you can make change happen, I also liked that the sub-par baseball team does not unrealistically become champions overnight. My only complaint is that by not developing characters fully, readers may forget which character is which if they read the book with gaps in between sessions. I enjoyed and recommend this book."

### **Heck: Where Bad Kids Go by Dale Basye**

From the book: "When Milton and Marlo Fauster die in a marshmallow-bear explosion, they get sent straight to Heck, an otherworldly reform school. Milton can understand why his kleptomaniac sister is here, but Milton is—or was—a model citizen. Has a mistake been made? Not according to Bea "Elsa" Bubb, the Principal of Darkness. She doesn't make mistakes. She personally sees to it that Heck—whether it be home ec class with Lizzie Borden, ethics with Richard Nixon, or gym with Blackbeard the pirate—is especially, well, heckish for the Fausters. Will Milton and Marlo find a way to escape? Or are they stuck here for all eternity, or until they turn eighteen, whichever comes first? "

From Mr. Bengiovanni "Trilogies are the way to go the last few years. Authors can sell one big book as three books and make three times the money. If I like the book, I'm willing to stay for three books but any book about one of the 'nine' circles of Heck is not a trilogy, it's a series, and might be too long a ride for me. Thankfully, book one of the Circles of Heck series is an easy read. The book is told third person and each (very short) chapter can focus on either Milton or his sister, Marlo, or perhaps someone else if the writer chooses. I liked many things about the book. The short chapters are great for students. The setting is interesting; the premise is very interesting as well. Also, the adversaries are not stupid and not easily outwitted by children. On the flip side, I wish I cared for these characters more. Maybe that develops over the nine book run. I've only read the first. As in the review above, here the writer sacrifices character for plot so if you are willing to forgo character because you want immediate action and random humor, you should enjoy this series. "

Check out the HMTCA Library Website for links to more great books.

