



# PHOENIX NEWS

October 28, 2013

## Greetings From The Principal

### School is in Session on Veterans Day, Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>!

**JUSTIFICATION:** In alignment with the Common Core State Standards, HMTCA will focus on a school-wide goal to develop the skill of justification. To be college and career ready, students need to think critically and use evidence to support their ideas. Students will have multiple opportunities to solve problems, build arguments, and present claims to justify their thinking.

Here is our **HMTCA school-wide JUSTIFICATION motto:**

**H**ow to JUSTIFY your Thinking:

**M**ake sure you understand the question

**T**ake a stand and state your position

**C**onstruct a response to support your thinking

**A**lways include meaningful evidence

## Sports at HMTCA

Many of our fall sports are coming to an end and we are pleased to have several teams that will be involved in playoffs. Middle school boys soccer is the number one seed; they begin playoffs on Monday. The middle school girls soccer team is the number three seed; their quest for a championship begins on Monday. Our high school boys soccer team won the league championship on Friday with a win against Metropolitan Learning Center. GO HMTCA ! The middle school volleyball team will begin their league tournament on Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at home. Game time is 4:30 PM.

End of regular season standings:

High School Boys Soccer	4-3-3
High School Girls Soccer	2-5-2
Middle School Boys Soccer	9-1-1
Middle School Girls Soccer	5-2-1
Middle School Girls Volleyball	8-2



Mr. Leonard and Ms. Brauman are beginning to collect winter sports paperwork. Remember to bring it in **ONLY ON MONDAY, WEDNESDAY OR FRIDAY MORNINGS!!**

## **Important Happenings at HMTCA**

### **HMTCA STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN MASS CASUALTY DRILL**

HMTCA students were among the participants in the October 10, 2013 mass casualty incident drill, coordinated by Connecticut Children's Medical Center. This is the second year HMTCA has had the honor to participate in this exercise.

CCMC staff and Public Safety Agencies conducted the emergency preparedness event. Roles were prepared for this exercise, in which HMTCA students, role playing the victims, were classified as critical, medium, and low need, based on their "injuries." Emergency and hospital personnel provided "aid," based on the students' level of need.

This was a fantastic service learning opportunity for our students, who earned three hours for their participation. The experience provided them with insight into what emergency personnel and first responders must do in the face of a disaster, and what they should do in such an event.

### **BRUSHING UP ON OUR SHAKESPEARE**

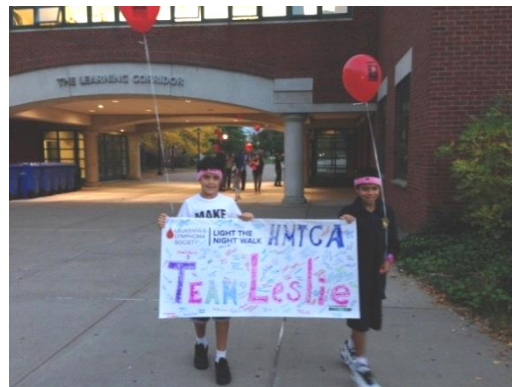
High school students attended two of The Bard's most famous plays this month. The junior curriculum came alive on September 10<sup>th</sup> for sixty students who went to Hartford Stage to see "Macbeth" as part of InterAct, a program sponsored by Hartford Stage and funded by local businesses. One of our sophomores was sitting so close to the action that she returned with a prop, a letter that had been tossed aside by an actor during one of the opening scenes. Talk about a performance to remember! These lucky high schoolers will attend a total of three performances this school year--"A Christmas Carol" in December and the premier of "Somewhere" in April--and will participate in pre-performance and post-performance workshops conducted for each show by professional teaching artists.

The following week, over fifty juniors went to Playhouse on Park to experience firsthand the treachery and deceit of "Othello." They returned to school that afternoon with great tales of characterization and universal themes, and assurances of how mature they were during the love scene. We later received an email from the coordinator of student services at Playhouse, expressing her appreciation of our students' decorum. Like their peers who were exemplars of appropriate theater etiquette at "Macbeth," they made us proud!

On to Dickens in December!



## HMTCA Helps Light Up the Night



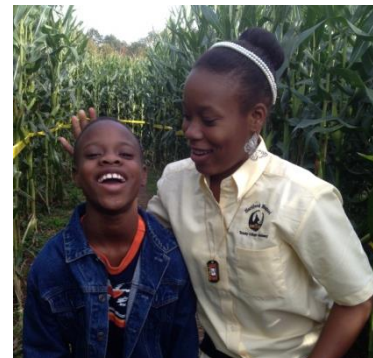
**On Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> the Hartford Magnet Trinity College community came together to help raise money and awareness for the fight against leukemia and lymphoma. This annual activity was organized by Mrs. Casparino, an eighth grade teacher, who started walking in this event over ten years ago. The HMTCA walk is made in memory of Leslie Geetter, a former teacher at Hartford Magnet. Students, staff and family members enjoyed the early fall weather as they walked through the beautiful Trinity College campus, raising over \$500 to help in the fight. In addition, students earned two hours in service learning for participating in this event.**



## **PTO News**

We thought we would share a couple of pictures from the Foster Family Farm event to show what fun the PTO events are. 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**



## **Upcoming Events**

**BEGINNING OF 2<sup>ND</sup> MARKING PERIOD**  
Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup>

**FALL BOOK FAIR OPENS**  
Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup> through  
Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>

**BAND AT VETERAN'S DAY PARADE**  
Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> 12:30 PM  
Starts at State Capitol

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade NATURE'S CLASSROOM  
PARENT MEETING**  
Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM  
Orientation in Cafeteria

**EVENING PARENT CONFERENCES**  
Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>  
Book Fair Open until 7:30 PM

**AFTERNOON PARENT CONFERENCES**  
Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>  
Early Release 12:00 Noon

**FOODSHARE SERVICE LEARNING EVENT**  
Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
101 Reserve Road, Hartford

**FEMALE EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE**  
Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>  
73 Times Farm Road, Andover, CT

**BAND AT TRINITY COLLEGE FOOTBALL GAME**  
Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> 12:00 Noon  
Trinity College Campus

**AUDITIONS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL**  
Hairspray Jr. 3:15 PM Room 229  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>

**EARLY RELEASE**  
Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>  
School Ends at 12:00 Noon NO COMPASS

**PTO MEETING**  
Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>  
6:30 PM Cafeteria

## Parent Information / Student Resources

### COMCAST OFFERS MORE AFFORDABLE INTERNET ACCESS

This is just a reminder that Comcast offers a program to eligible households, (see attached flyer) that provides broadband service for \$9.95 a month and the option to purchase a computer for under \$150. Please read the attached letter of introduction and flier carefully. They provide all necessary details, eligibility requirements and instructions for enrollment. This could be the opportunity for which you have been looking.

### FIRST MAGNET SCHOOL FAIR

The application period for eighth graders to apply to magnet high schools is fast approaching; the window runs from November 15, 2013 to February 28, 2014. The first Magnet Fair is scheduled for Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at Prince Technical School from 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon. Prince Tech is located at 401 Flatbush Avenue in Hartford. This is a fabulous opportunity to explore and compare multiple options at the same time. Other fairs will be offered throughout December, January and February.

## College Corner



### HMTCA Human Rights Class Attends Trinity Lecture

The dream of having HMTCA students actively engaged in the academic rigor at Trinity College is becoming a reality. On Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> students from Ms. Avery's high school class on Human Rights attended a lunchtime lecture given by Paulo Abrão. Dr. Abrão is the Brazilian National Secretary of Justice and the President of the Brazilian Amnesty Commission. Students applied their Spanish language skills as they listened to Dr. Abrão, in his native Portuguese, discuss human rights reform. The lecture hall was packed with Trinity students and staff as Dr. Abrão described his work in human rights and the democratization processes. HMTCA students enjoyed the atmosphere and the intellectual challenge of 'thinking and acting' like a college student. One student, Ervin Mahlukati, mentioned that he has already purchased his tickets to the World Cup in Brazil this summer so he was particularly interested in Dr. Abrão's comments about safety and security for the event.



## Music Moments

This past weekend, HMTCA chorus members Gavin Silver, Evan Barrow, Hannah Braverman and Catherine Knight-Diaz had the incredible chance to attend and participate in the Connecticut Choral Festival at Manchester Community College. They prepared for the festival by rehearsing challenging music after school. The middle school honor choir put on a fantastic performance and they were actually able to meet the composers of their pieces. It was truly an inspiring performance.



## Band News

The Marching Phoenix keeps up their busy fall schedule with two performances on the horizon. We would love to have you join us at the following events.

The first is the **Hartford Veteran's Day Parade** on Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12:30 PM. The parade steps off at the State Capitol, continues through the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch, goes down Main Street and ends on Hudson Street.

The second event is another **Trinity College football game** on Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon, on the Trinity campus.

## Theatre Auditions

Calling all middle school actors, singers and dancers! Auditions for the fabulous middle school musical are coming soon. This year, Ms. Manke and Dr. Falconer have chosen **Hairspray Jr.** Auditions will be held by grade and are on the following days.

6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Monday, November 11 <sup>th</sup>
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Tuesday, November 12 <sup>th</sup>
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Wednesday, November 13 <sup>th</sup>

All auditions will take place in room 229 at 3:15 PM. Parents please remember, you will need to provide transportation home for your children. Permission slips are available in every cluster.

## **Book Reviews by Bengiovanni**



Each issue our library media specialist Mr. Bengiovanni will review books from the HMTCA library. This week, he received some help.

This book review is from the Smart Cookies, an HMTCA student book club.

### *Love Among the Walnuts* by Jean Ferris

Summary by Isabelle Galm: "Horatio Alger Huntington-Ackerman--who is the richest man in the world--is married to Mousey Hunter- Ackerman. Their butler, Bently, is married to Flossie. They all live in a mansion out in the country next to the mysterious Walnut Manor. When Horatio, Mousey, and Flossie fall into comas due to a poisoned birthday cake, (supplied by Horatio's evil brothers Bart and Bernie, who are after Horatio to kill him so they can inherit Horatio's grand fortune) it is up to Sandy (Horatio and Mousey's son) and Bently to wake up the sleepers, and possibly help a couple of people on the way."

Review by Smart Cookies: This was our first book in our book club. Our book club reviews of the book were mostly around 3 ½ stars out of 5. Izzy G. liked the fact the story was separated into parts. While Miette-Blue felt that the events occurred too randomly. Milanna S. agreed, and said there was too much happening in each chapter. Lola K., the book's toughest critic felt this book could have been better if it had more suspense. The book was enjoyed most by Eva H who liked the book "because it was quirky and funny, especially when Sunnie arrives and they move to Walnut Manor." Overall most of us liked the book.

### *The Maze of Bones*, Book One of the 39 Clues Series

Summary from Goodreads.com: "Minutes before she died Grace Cahill changed her will, leaving her descendants an impossible decision: You have a choice - one million dollars or a clue. Grace is the last matriarch of the Cahills, the world's most powerful family. Everyone from Napoleon to Houdini is related to the Cahills, yet the source of the family power is lost. 39 clues hidden around the world will reveal the family's secret, but no one has been able to assemble them. Now the clues race is on, and young Amy and Dan must decide what's important: hunting clues or uncovering what REALLY happened to their parents."

Review from Mr. Bengiovanni: "The 39 Clues Series has a few gimmicks. First, it has seven different authors throughout the series (a shelving nightmare), and Secondly it has trading cards and prizes as readers are also part of the contest. Those detractions aside, the first book of the series is a well written (Rick Riordan of Lightning Thief fame) adventure where your typical team of a boy and a girl are on a dangerous quest. It is fairly fast paced and the chapters come quickly. The first book comes in at only 200 pages and is the largest book, so young readers will not feel overwhelmed with any single book, and can also feel progress as they move from book to book. I recommend this series to fans of Harry Potter or the Heroes of Olympus or if you enjoyed the National Treasure Movies. The 39 Clues series is available in the HMTCA Library Media Center in its own section instead of being shelved by author ☺"

The HMTCA Library Media Center. Come check us out at <http://hmtcamediacenter.weebly.com/>

## **Community News**

There are several exciting service learning and community engagement opportunities coming up soon.

### **LATINO FILM FESTIVAL**

Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM – 1:30 PM

This event is free for kids and \$5.00 for adults. It is recommended for ages 8 to 14 and is being held at Cinestudio, located at 300 Summit Street on the Trinity College campus. All films have English subtitles so everyone can enjoy the films. Please see the attached flyer for further information. If a parent/guardian attends with a student, they can receive 30 minutes of service learning. A parent and event coordinator signature is required.

### **FOODSHARE SERVICE LEARNING EVENT**

Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Compass at HMTCA will host a community service event in partnership with Foodshare. Parents, families and HMTCA students are all welcome to participate. Compass staff will be supervising the event so students can be dropped off at the location. Please pick up a registration form at the Compass or main office.

### **FEMALE EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE**

Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>

This two day, overnight conference is open to girls ages 12-17. In order to attend you must write an essay which waives the fee for the entire conference. This includes the cost of the overnight accommodations. No applications will be accepted without the essay. The theme is “Dreams Are a Girl’s Best Friend”. Compass staff will be present for the event and assisting with supervision. For more information contact Compass Program Coordinator, Rachelle Fawcett at [rachellefawcett@compassyc.org](mailto:rachellefawcett@compassyc.org). Please submit all registration forms with essays to Compass.