

November 11, 2013

Greetings From The Principal

You are invited to attend the PTO meeting on Thursday, November 14th at 6:30 P.M. in the cafeteria. This month's focus topic is: *Understanding the Common Core State Standards*. Join us for a presentation by our instructional coaches on the goals of the standards as well as changes to learning and assessment. Resources and activities will be shared.

The evening will also be filled with important information regarding the COMPASS program and some of their upcoming events that service our community.

Spread the word about HMTCA! Most of the available seats are for students entering grade 6.
Informational Sessions: Saturday, December 14th at 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, January 22nd at 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, February 22nd at 9:00 a.m.

Sports at HMTCA



Our sports teams all did a super job this fall and we would like to congratulate all of the participants on their dedication, commitment and performances. The Middle School Girls Soccer team reached the playoffs, the Middle School Girls Volleyball team reached the semi-finals and the Middle School Boys Soccer team reached the finals. Thank you to all the coaches who brought out the best in our young athletes.

Looking forward to our winter sports, which will start in a few short weeks, please submit all of your paperwork and required medical examinations by November 15th so you can participate. Starting dates for each sport will be announced in school and will also be available on our website as soon as they are determined.

Important Happenings at HMTCA



HMTCA FACULTY SHOW THEIR STRENGTH

Team Captain Kate Kiniry recruited fellow staff members Jonathan Stanizzi, Jason Smith, Theresa Kemp and Malorie Senofonte to participate in the Urban Fitness Challenge. Created by famous bodybuilder and fitness and strength coach, Tyler English, along with Brad Drazen from NBC and Andy Katz from ESPN, this gruesome obstacle course was a true test of strength, perseverance and sheer grit. The course featured events with ropes, tires, PVC pipes and sand bags all while doing squats, lunges, and push-ups. It was grueling to say the least.

The question becomes WHY would anyone subject themselves to such intense physical torture? The answer is, to benefit the hungry and needy children in Hartford. The challenge supports the Kids' Care Program at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Hartford. Each registration fee guaranteed, one child in Hartford, a nutritious dinner for four months. As painful as the event was for our staff, it certainly does not compare to the pain of going to bed hungry. All five of our staff members would agree that their spirits were nourished despite the extreme difficulty of the event.

The icing on the cake was that our fearless warriors placed second out of all the corporate teams that entered the challenge. GO HMTCA!!!



NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY OFFICERS ELECTED

The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is one of the nation's premier organizations which recognizes outstanding middle school students. NJHS goes beyond the honor roll and celebrates students who have demonstrated excellence in the "five pillars". The five areas are Scholarship, Leadership, Service, Character and Citizenship. At HMTCA, students are invited to apply to the program. They are then selected, based on their applications and how well they have exemplified the five pillars of NJHS. Each year the members elect officers and we are happy to announce those winners!

President	Lauren Cassot
Vice President	Eliza Wizner
Secretary	Shaina Schnog
Co-Treasurers	Maddy Pavlovich and Maddy Perez
Historian	Jeffrey Gajda

MEET OUR NEW NURSE

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Lucelia DeJesus to HMTCA. She joined our staff on Thursday, October 31st coming from the Hospital for Special Care in New Britain. Although this is Ms. DeJesus' first job in the Hartford School system, she is actually coming back to her roots. She lived in Hartford from the time she was five years old and she graduated from Bulkeley High. Ms. DeJesus then went on to earn her nursing degree from Capital Community College. Her goal had always been to work with children and now she has found a way to make that dream a reality.



Ms. DeJesus lives in Wethersfield, has two children ages eight and thirteen, a Pomeranian/Chihuahua dog named Bonnie and her favorite TV show is The Voice. Please stop by, introduce yourself, and find out more about the newest addition to the HMTCA family.

INTERCAMPUS COLLABORATION - HMTCA AND TRINITY COLLEGE MATCH MINDS

As part of a collaboration with students in Dr. Stephanie Chamber's senior seminar, "Racial and Ethnic Politics," a group of HMTCA sophomores travelled to Trinity College on October 25th, where they took part in a student-led presentation on issues surrounding the practice of racial profiling. The following week, the Trinity students returned the visit. High schoolers and their college counterparts engaged in a lively discussion about whether our country's public schools are being resegregated. In the process, our sophomores learned about charter schools, and provided input on their magnet school experience. All present agreed that HMTCA students are fortunate to be in a high performing magnet school.

PTO News

The next PTO meeting is Thursday, November 14th and the evening will be filled with important information regarding the COMPASS program and some of their upcoming events that service our community.

The first event is on Wednesday, November 20th at 6:00 PM in the HMTCA library. TD Bank will present a program entitled "Home Buying Made Simple & Build and Maintain Great Credit". This event is open to the public so grab a friend and join us for this informative program.

Compass will begin to offer **free** English Language Learner (ELL) classes starting on Thursday, December 19th at 6:00 PM. If you would like to improve your English, registration is now open.

We know the holiday season gets busy quickly, so save the date for the COMPASS Mid-Year Showcase. Join us on Thursday, December 12th in the cafeteria and see performances showcasing our students work from the first two sessions.

Upcoming Events

AUDITIONS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL

Hairspray 3:15 PM Room 229

6th Grade Monday, November 11th

7th Grade Tuesday, November 12th

8th Grade Wednesday, November 13th

EARLY RELEASE & FIRST FLEX CLASS

Wednesday, November 13th

12:00 PM Dismissal No COMPASS

JUNIORS TRIP TO CCSU

Thursday, November 14th

CCSU Campus

PTO MEETING

Thursday, November 14th 6:30 PM

Treble Makers Performance

Cafeteria

PICK UP FOR FALL FUNDRAISER

Friday, November 15th 3:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Monday, November 18th 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

PD Room

MAGNET SCHOOL FAIR

Saturday, November 16th 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Prince Technical High School

GOVERNANCE COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, November 18th 5:30 PM

PD Room

FALL SPORTS BANQUET

Tuesday, November 19th 6:30 PM

Cafeteria

COMPASS/TD BANK WORKSHOP

Wednesday, November 20th 6:00 PM

"Home Buying Made Simple"

Library

Early dismissal

Wednesday, November 27th

12:00 p.m. Dismissal No Compass

Happy Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 28th

Parent Information / Student Resources

FIRST MAGNET SCHOOL FAIR

The application period for 8th 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 16th 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

GETTING TO KNOW CCSU



Several colleges and universities have come to HMTCA and done presentations for our junior class. This time twenty five of our High School juniors will have the opportunity to visit Central Connecticut State University and get a more extensive feel for campus life. On Thursday, November 14th our students will begin their tour with an informational meeting about the admission process. Then, CCSU students will take our HMTCA juniors to visit classrooms, the library, gymnasium natatorium, computer labs and other highlights of their school. This exciting morning will conclude with lunch at the student union.

Our high school guidance department is hoping to do other trips in the spring, to expose our sophomores and juniors to colleges and universities in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. We will update you as information becomes available.

THE JOB SHADOW PROGRAM

The Job Shadow program is designed to give the 10th grade students a first-hand opportunity to experience an occupation he/she may be interested in. The student will be placed at an appropriate business for a day, so that they can get an idea of what the work is like, talk to people employed in that profession, and have questions answered by the practicing professionals.

Prior to being placed, each student is required to complete the assessment "Do what you are" using our online program, Naviance. This assessment gives us an idea of what careers the student seems interested in, based on how they answer certain questions. They then must complete an application form and have a permission slip signed in order to continue the process. Once these forms are returned to Mrs. Mealy or Mrs. Gunn a placement will be made.

Last year we were exceptionally lucky to be able to place our students at places such as ESPN, Hartford Hospital, Dellaria Hair Salon, Chartwell Caterers, AECOM Engineers, Hartford Police Department, Hartt School of Music, Dr. Donald Rossler, DMD, Hopmeadow Vet, Wells Fargo, Whitlesey & Hadley PC, Henkle Corp, Attorney O'Keefe, and the Air National Guard.

Band News

The Marching Phoenix Band, under the superb direction of Kelly Pike and Tom Franklin, has represented our school with integrity, enthusiasm and talent. Everywhere we have been, spectators are amazed that the students are in middle school and not in high school. The band has been met with cheers and accolades that are well deserved. On November 3rd we were honored to be part of one of the biggest Veterans' Day Parades in the country, right here in Hartford. Almost three thousand veterans, bands, floats and civic organizations marched, to honor those who have served, and sometimes given their lives to protect this country's freedoms.

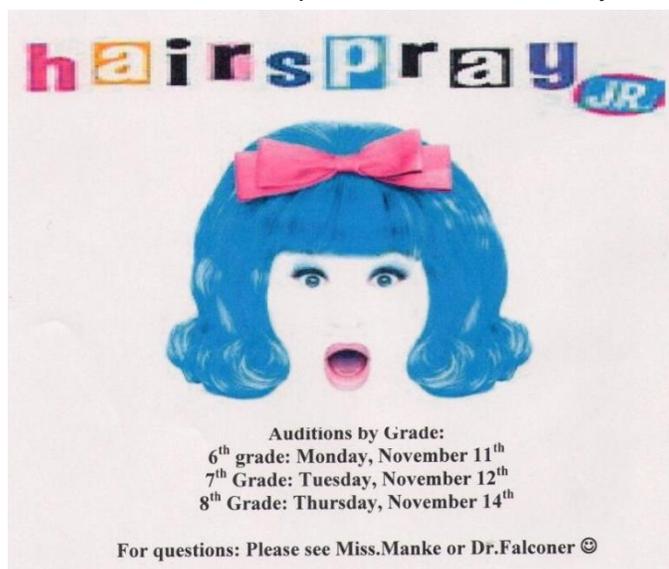
The marching band has one last event, this Saturday, November 9th. They will play at the Trinity College football game which is at noon on the college campus. Please come out and support our terrific musicians.

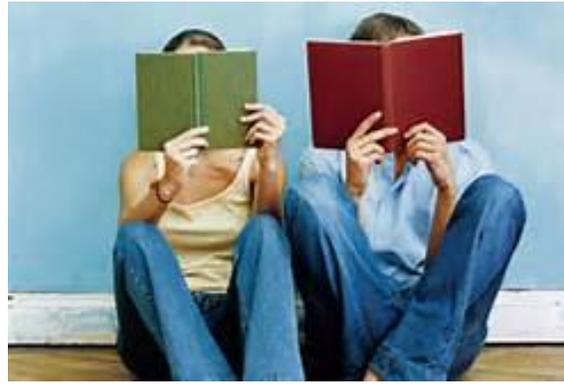
Theatre Auditions

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**. Auditions will be held by grade and are on the following days.

6 th Grade	Monday, November 11 th
7 th Grade	Tuesday, November 12 th
8 th Grade	Wednesday, November 13 th

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.

24 girls in 7 days by Alex Bradley

From the book: “Unlucky in love, teenager Jack Grammar cannot get a date to prom until his friends play a practical joke and place a personal ad in the school online newspaper on his behalf. Now Jack has twenty-four dates and just seven days until prom.”

From Mr. Bengiovanni: “I like small books because I can fit them in jacket or pocket. This 250 page book is the size of a Bluford High book, or if you are as old as me, the size of a Harlequin Romance novel. When I chose this book, I was not sure who the audience is for this book. It is written by a man, about a high school senior, a boy named Jack Grammar, who goes from a nobody to someone who goes on many dates with various girls (think *ABC's The Bachelor* in high school with much less kissing). I think the book really is a great teen read for boys, but the pink and lime green cover screams ‘girls read me’ which might have been the better marketing strategy for sales. I can see myself encouraging male readers to check it out and them rejecting my suggestion. In the end, it’s a very light self-discovery book with just enough twists and turns that the reader should not be able to predict the ending. Since I am the only person I know who has read this book, I’m still not sure who the intended audience for this book really is, but I think this book works for any student in grades 6-12 so if any of them stop by the media center, I’ll recommend this title to them!”

Gone by Michael Grant

From the book: “In a small town on the coast of California, everyone over the age of fourteen suddenly disappears, setting up a battle between the remaining town residents and the students from a local private school, as well as those who have “The Power” and are able to perform supernatural feats and those who do not. “

From Mr. Bengiovanni “Five years ago it was vampires. Now I can’t walk five feet in the library without seeing another dystopian title. *Gone* is part of a series (currently at six books) that began in 2008 with a new title releasing every year. Like many books in this genre, the protagonists are young people who find themselves in a world they were not prepared for. The *Gone* series is a mash up of *Under The Dome* meets *Agents of Shield*, the reader discovers quickly that everyone over the age of 14 is, well... gone. Infants are being cared for my 8 year olds, and supplies and food are quickly becoming an issue. Leaders are selected by charisma, heroics and who carries the biggest aluminum bat. The author, Michael Grant, sets up some logical reasons why electricity remains on even though this 300 square mile area is cut off from the rest of the world by a giant, impenetrable dome. Some readers might be turned off that some individuals have some unique “powers”. The fact that a meteor hit a nuclear power plant 15 years ago, seems lost on the characters, but not on the reader and provides somewhat of a logical explanation of why this is happening. The real story here is the *Lord of the Flies / Maze Runner* society and how it manifests. The *Gone* books are also very big, like Harry Potter big. Still, if you have really, really big pockets and you don’t mind a little sci-fi in your dystopia and most of all, you have time to read two thousand, eight hundred and ninety seven pages, there is a six book series in the library waiting for you!”

Check out the [HMTCA Library Website](#) for links to more great books.

Community News

FINANCIAL WORKSHOP

Compass, in conjunction with TD Bank, is delighted to offer the second, in a series of workshops on financial topics. This one features important information on purchasing a home and on building and maintaining good credit.

It will take place on Wednesday, November 20th at 6:00 PM in the HMTCA library. It is free of charge and is open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

To reserve your space call Jasmine at 860-695-7275 or email her at mendj008@hartfordschools.org. For more information see the attached flier.

COLLEGE AND CAREER EVENT

October was designated as College and Career Readiness Month. As a part of COMPASS' efforts to increase access to information about college for HMTCA students, they hosted a special event on October 18th. It was led by the Program Coordinator, Rachelle, Alex, a Professional Youth Development Worker and student at Central Connecticut State University and Jennifer, also a Professional Youth Development Worker and a recent graduate of the State University of New York. They prepared a presentation about the benefits of attending college and the various options available to pursue higher education. Students then had the opportunity to hear from various guest speakers about college admissions, college life, and career opportunities. Representatives from Trinity College and Manchester Community College were present to answer the students' questions. COMPASS plans to continue collaborations with various institutions of Higher Education to provide exposure to students about the many opportunities available when attending college.

