

PHOENIX NEWS

October 24, 2014

Greetings from the Principal

As the first marking period comes to an end, it is gratifying to look at the tremendous progress our students have made. Parent-Teacher conferences are coming up on Wednesday, November 12th and Thursday, November 13th. Together, your child and their teacher will be sharing extremely important information with you. We can't emphasize enough how vital it is that you make time to come in. It is your chance to review the past quarter and plot a strategy to make the rest of the academic year a successful experience.

We Are So Honored

CLINTON FIRES UP THE CROWD

Agree or disagree with his politics, there is no denying that former president Bill Clinton is a powerful speaker and a formidable presence. A political rally for Governor Dannel Malloy's campaign was held in the HMTCA gym on Monday evening October 13th. With the race for Governor tied in a dead heat, many of Connecticut's top democratic officials spoke on Malloy's behalf.

Hartford Mayor Pedro Segarra, Representative John Larson, Senator Richard Blumenthal and Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman all got the crowd cheering. Next up was Governor Malloy who spoke about his accomplishments and hopes for the future. Then, the crowd erupted as Bill Clinton took the stage. His message was targeted toward the leadership Malloy has shown in extremely hard times and the bold stands he has taken on issues such as gun control and raising the minimum wage. He left us with the charge to get out, talk to people and VOTE.



Following Clinton's speech, he stayed briefly to shake hands and even sign autographs for a few lucky people. It was quite a night for HMTCA and the Hartford community.



NEXT UP MAYOR SEGGARA AND A DISTINGUISHED PANEL

For the high school celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month Melissa Cavanaugh, a high school Social Studies teacher, put together a distinguished panel of local residents of Hispanic descent. They shared their experiences of how academic empowerment and courage created lives filled with triumph. Adding to the excitement of the event was the appearance of Hartford Mayor Pedro Segarra. Our students were able to ask questions and hear real life situations that our guests had experienced and see how education played a critical role in the solutions they found.



Important Happenings at HMTCA

HMTCA TAKES STEPS TO FIGHT CANCER

HMTCA is literally taking steps to help fight cancer by participating in two walks.

The first, *Light the Night*, was held on Thursday, October 9th and was part of a nationwide effort to fight Leukemia. Eighth grade teacher Amy Casparino has organized this event for several years in honor of Leslie Geeter, a beloved colleague who lost her battle against this disease. Approximately two hundred students, staff and family members gathered together and walked around the Trinity College campus holding red lanterns to symbolize the bright hope of finding a cure. Students were able to earn two service learning hours by participating in the walk. Including this year's donations, the HMTCA community has raised over \$10,000 to help support this worthy cause and to help find a cure.



The second walk was the *American Cancer Society Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk* which took place on Sunday, October 19th at Bushnell Park in Hartford and again, students received two hours of service learning by participating in the walk. Kim Bird, an eighth grade science teacher, spear headed this effort and the goal was to raise \$1,000. The money raised, goes for scientific research to discover a possible cure, travel expenses for women getting treatment in facilities far away from their homes, and other services that provide information and guidance for women facing this life journey. If students donate \$1 they can wear a pink or red shirt to school on Thursday, October 30th and they will receive a silicone breast cancer awareness bracelet.

If you would still like to donate online you may do so on the following website:

http://m.makingstrides.acsevents.org/site/PageServer/?pagename=MSABC_CY14_FindAnEvent



More Important Happenings at HMTCA

CAN YOU FLEX?

Many people may think that flexing is the same as stretching and in some respects it is. On October 8th the middle school students were treated to their first Flex Day which is a stretching of the mind and an exploration of things that they may never have tried before. Four times a year our students take a class that can range from ice skating or water sports, to woodworking or foreign films. There are over 25 different offerings taught by our staff. Students love the chance to be with students from grades 6-8, with teachers they may not have had, and the camaraderie of doing, creating or learning about new, exciting topics. The pictures tell the complete story.



Parents Corner

WHEN IN ROME.....

The year is off to a great start and the 7th grade World History classes continue to master the curriculum. Students have just completed the geography unit, received some background lessons on world religions, and discussed the characteristics that comprise a civilization. Students will now delve into a month long unit on Rome. During the Rome unit, students will study the geography of Italy, especially Rome, and how that geography helped Rome succeed. In addition they will follow the progression of Rome from the early years, to establishing a Republic, an Empire and finally how and why Rome fell.

Some of the skills the students will be developing during the Rome unit are argumentative writing, note taking and summarizing text effectively. As parents, you should look for the following activities and performance grades:

- A geography quiz on Italy
- Interactive note book pages on the Etruscans
- A comic book on the Punic Wars
- An obituary for Julius Caesar
- A teaching presentation on an accomplishment of Rome
- A final test on Rome including an argumentative response

GOT QUESTIONS?????

Parents do you have a question, need some information, want a contact person for an event or a sports team? Do you want to volunteer or be part of a committee? Whether you are a new parent or just new to a specific event, if you have questions we have the answers. Just call Holly Heller, our School and Family Support Service Provider, and she will connect you with the appropriate school contact. It is that easy. So please, don't hesitate to call Mrs. Heller at 860-695-7201 or e-mail her at hellh001@hartfordschools.org. We truly look forward to speaking with you.

SCHOOL PICTURES AND STUDENT IDs

Our photography company, Grynn & Barrett have completed the process of taking the picture and doing any necessary retakes. If your child did have pictures taken on the second date of October 7th those should come in within the next two weeks or so. If you are still missing pictures from those taken the second day of school, please call their customer service number which is 1-800-639-2104. They pride themselves on quality and service and will make every attempt to ensure your satisfaction.

Hard plastic photo ID cards will also be issued to your child in the near future. It will have the name of the school on it and can be used when identification is needed although it carries no legal authority. Look for these

Sports Score Board

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM AT THE TOP OF THEIR GAME

The first ever girls *varsity* volleyball team has a phenomenal 14--2 record which puts them at a ranking of 4th in the state! Coached by eighth grade English teacher Mary Kate Kiniry, they have grown together as a team and really excelled as the season has progressed. The team is a mix of a core of very experienced players, as well as several who are relatively new to the game. Together they have brought HMTCA to the top of the ranks. WAY TO GO LADIES!!

Other Team Records	Wins	Losses	Ties
High School Boys Soccer	5	5	0
High School Girls Soccer	1	8	1
High School Boys Football	2	3	
High School Girls Volleyball	14	2	0
Middle School Boys Soccer	5	0	1
Middle School Girls Soccer	8	1	
Middle School Girls Volleyball	6	1	0



PTO News

Parents, teachers, friends- The HMTCA PTO wants you to know that we have a new email where you can sign up to volunteer, express ideas, voice concerns, and let us know about upcoming events in your area that you would like us to be a part of. Don't have time to come in? Want to know when, where or what our next meeting is about? Please feel free to drop us a line and we will promptly return your email! The new email is hmtca.pto@gmail.com.

The other exciting news is that the PTO is launching a new program called the *PTO Ambassador Program*. Students can earn service learning hours by greeting parents at the door on meeting nights with information regarding the PTO, meeting agendas and upcoming events.

Speaking of meetings save Thursday, November 13th for the next one. It will be in the cafeteria at 6:30 pm and will feature a guest from the Board of Education discussing the Common Core Curriculum and giving us information about our new superintendent.

Theatre Happenings

MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM NO SLEEPER

The high school production of A Midsummer Night's Dream was a rousing success. Audiences laughed at the antics of the players and rooted for the star crossed lovers. It was astounding to think they had put such a polished production together in only five weeks. For those of you who were not fortunate enough to make the show here are some pictures for you to enjoy.



ONCE UPON A MATTRESS IS OFF AND RUNNING

The auditions are over, the cast list has been posted and the first cast meeting for *Once Upon A Mattress* was held on Wednesday, October 22nd. Everyone received their scripts and calendar of rehearsals. The production will run Thursday and Friday nights February 19th and 20th. The show is a delightful musical comedy based on the story of a *Princess and the Pea*. In fact it is the musical that made Carol Burnett a star.

If there are any parents who would like to volunteer to help out, there are always numerous opportunities in areas such as scenery construction, selling tickets at the shows, working the concession stand, helping with makeup and many others. Contact information will be available as the show gets closer.

College Corner

Our high school guidance department is extremely busy setting our sophomores up with job shadowing assignments. This program gives our students an opportunity to spend a day with a professional in a field they think they might be interested in pursuing.

On Monday, October 20th the entire junior class will be attending the Sports and Medical Science Academy college fair, where over 100 schools will be represented.

There are multiple colleges coming to HMTCA over the next month, which gives our students a chance to contrast and compare several different kinds of secondary educational opportunities.

University of New Haven	October 2, 2014	8:15 AM
Goodwin College	October 30, 2014	8:30 AM
Towson University	November 3, 2014	10:00 AM
United States Army	November 5, 2014	8:30 AM
University of Connecticut	November 7, 2014	9:00 AM
Central Connecticut State University	November 13, 2014	8:30 AM
Lincoln College of New England	November 14, 2014	8:15 AM

There will also be a trip for the freshman class to UCONN's campus on November 3, 2014. We know this will be an eye opener and will get them thinking about what is in the not too distant future!

LANGUAGE TRANSITION SERVICES- BINGO!

Our LTS student are sponsoring a Family Bingo Night on Thursday, November 6th from 6:30 – 8:00 PM. The cost is \$7.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. We hope you will join us for a fun night with a chance to win fantastic prizes including movie gift cards, a school supplies basket, and a selfie stick! There will be pizzas and drinks available for purchase. The LTS students are trying to raise money for an upcoming field trip so, if you can, please come out and support them.

Community News

ARE YOU UP FOR A CHALLENGE ?

The Urban Fitness Challenge is back. Once again Mary Kate Kiniry, an eighth grade English teacher, is putting together a team of strong, courageous individuals to tackle this incredible challenge. This fitness event is held to benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs of Hartford. By participating in the challenge or making a direct donation, you can make a difference in the lives of children who, without the Boys & Girls Club of Hartford would be left to find their own activities and companionship in the streets without adequate care or adult supervision. These kids need to know someone cares about them.

Proceeds from registration fees and donations will pay to provide dinner for one Hartford child for four months. In fact, the dollars raised from this event will be used to provide hundreds of meals for Hartford children through the Kids' Café Program.

Some of the events the challenge includes are the sand bag pull, cinder block squats, 20lb.chain lunges, suicide sprints, PVC pipe shoulder presses, military barbwire crawl and a mile and a half run!

For those brave souls who would like to take the challenge you can sign up at the link below and register to join our team, "HMTCA Phoenix". If you'd just like to donate, please do so under that team name.

<http://urbanfitnesschallengect.kintera.org/faf/home/waiver.asp?ievent=1112822&lis=0&kntae1112822=DFA1933822A4480F98F741A09201EF59>

THE GIRLS CLUB GETS FRIENDLY

For the second year Ms. Cavanaugh, a high school social studies teacher, is leading the Girls Club and their first outing was to a Friendly's ice cream shop. The Girls Club is a group of high school girls committed to growing as young women. They are dedicated to doing community service in the Hartford community. They are also focused on discussing "girls issues" and team building through social events like ice skating, shopping trips and dining out together. Last year they participated in the breast cancer and Foodshare's Walk Against Hunger events, made monthly trips to the Marshall House (a local shelter for families) and did a mentoring program with the middle school girls. We expect great things from them this year.



Upcoming Events

NATURE'S CLASSROOM TRIP ORIENTATION

Tuesday, October 28th
Parent Information Meeting
6:30PM

HIGH SCHOOL EXAMS

Wednesday, October 29th through
Friday, October 31st

END OF 1st MARKING PERIOD

Friday, October 31st

URBAN FITNESS CHALLENGE

Sunday, November 2nd
10:00 AM
Trinity Field House

BEGINNING OF 2nd MARKING PERIOD

Monday, November 3rd

HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMAN TRIP TO UCONN CAMPUS

Monday, November 3rd

ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, November 4th
NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
NO COMPASS

LANGUAGE TRANSITION SERVICES

FAMILY BINGO NIGHT

Thursday, November 6th

6:30 – 8:00 PM

Cafeteria

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL EVENING PARENT CONFERENCES

Wednesday, November 12th

EARLY RELEASE

Thursday, November 13th

12:00 DISMISSAL

NO COMPASS

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL AFTERNOON CONFERENCES

Thursday, November 13th

PTO MEETING

Thursday, November 13th

6:30 PM

Board of Education speaker on Common Core

Hidden Gems of the Library

The HMTCA library has over 10,000 books available and students love to visit to check out the most popular titles. Some great books are waiting to be checked out! Here are some hidden gems in the HMTCA library.

Return to Sender by Julia Alvarez

11-year-old Tyler's family is in danger of losing their dairy farm. Tyler's family employs Mari's family, who are illegal migrant Mexican workers. Third-person chapters about Tyler alternate with Mari's lengthy, un-mailed letters to her missing mother and diary entries. Will the farm be raided? Is Mari's mother in danger?

The Mark of the Horse Lord by Rosemary Sutcliff

Bearing an uncanny resemblance to the now-blind displaced King of the Scots, former gladiator and slave Phaedrus impersonates the Horse Lord to regain control of the Scottish kingdom.

The Thief and the Beanstalk by P.W. Cantanese

Everyone knows the story of Jack and the beanstalk. When Nick's dangerous mission leads him straight to Jack, he sees a chance to climb the famed beanstalk himself. But what Nick doesn't know is that things are different from when Jack made his climb. There are new foes at the top now, ones with cruel weapons and foul plans.

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor

A Black family struggles to maintain their dignity and independence against prejudice and discrimination in Depression-era Mississippi.

Me, The Missing, and the Dead by Jenny Valentine

Sixteen-year-old Londoner Lucas Swain, left in possession of the ashes of Violet Park, becomes convinced that Violet is communicating with him, initiating a voyage of self-discovery that forces him to finally confront the events surrounding his father's sudden disappearance.

On the Line by Fred Bowen

Worried that his inability to make free throws is making his junior high basketball team lose games, Marcus learns an unconventional underhand shooting method from a friendly custodian but is not sure he wants to use it.