

PHOENIX NEWS

December 12, 2014

IT'S A WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR

Starting with Thanksgiving, this is the time of the year we begin to think of ways to open our hearts and help others. Here at HMTCA the true spirit of the holidays shines bright. Our students, faculty and staff give in so many ways, both here at school and in their home lives. It is a time to reflect on our blessings and spread good cheer.

As we shared in the last newsletter, our advisories, both middle school and high school, decorated boxes or baskets and then filled them with all the trimmings for a scrumptious turkey dinner. COMPASS was able to get the turkeys donated and these were then disbursed to families within the HMTCA community. The baskets were amazing and were joyfully received.

The pictures show some of the beautiful and creative boxes the students made and how they were also a part of organizing the food and stuffing each box chock full of goodies. We are truly grateful for everyone's contributions.

Check out our Community News section to learn how HMTCA is lending a helping hand during the rest of the holiday season.



College Corner

WHAT'S NEW IN THE SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPARTMENT?

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER FOR...

Myane Harris was selected as the 2014-15 DAR Good Citizen from HMTCA. The DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) Good Citizens Award program honors an outstanding senior student who demonstrates the qualities of a good citizen, including:

1. Dependability- truthfulness, loyalty, punctuality
2. Service- cooperation, courtesy and consideration of others
3. Leadership- personality, self-control, ability to assume responsibility
4. Patriotism- unselfish interest in family, school, community, and nation

She was selected by faculty as the best representative of these qualities from among our seniors this year. Myane will be honored in the late spring at a DAR chapter meeting and she is eligible to enter the state level scholarship competition.

We also want to congratulate Adam Gillette who was selected as a National Merit Semi-Finalist, based on his performance on the junior year PSAT. Adam has chosen to move forward with an application to be selected as a National Merit Finalist, which will be decided later this year.

You both make us so proud!



Trinity College
HARTFORD CONNECTICUT

SENIORS HAVE BEEN BUSY!

College decisions are starting to come in for students who applied early. Our students continue to do their research, visit colleges, meet with college representatives here at HMTCA and then to submit applications. They have been working on their college essays, requesting recommendations and taking SAT's and ACT's as a part of this process. Reminder: If your deadline is January 15, your request for transcript and supporting documents are due by Wednesday, December 17th.

Financial Aid Night was held on December 3th for senior parents. This evening of information about completing the FAFSA, Profile and other ins and outs of financial aid was presented by Holly Faranquet, financial aid officer from Housatonic Community College.

Mrs. Nussbaum, our college counselor, presented an overview of financial aid and scholarship sources to seniors on December 5th. We are researching many resources to provide our seniors with information about outside scholarships to help finance their college education.

The Inroads College Links program is a national program whose mission is to develop and place talented underserved youth in business and industry and prepare them for corporate and community leadership. A representative from our local program met with eligible seniors on Friday, December 5th to discuss the internship opportunities available to them next summer.

Twelve of our seniors are finishing up the college courses they took on Trinity's campus and they have all had a very positive experience. Next semester we will have fifteen students taking courses at Trinity and also a number of students taking classes at Capital Community College.



SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS

The PSAT results arrive in mid-December and are reviewed and interpreted to the students by our counselors. It is time for the eleventh grade students to begin thinking about future plans. To help with this process, we will start the Junior Planning Seminar series second semester. They will take the SAT in April. Sophomores are encouraged to READ, READ, READ and do well in their Math and English courses in order to prepare for future testing.

JOB SHADOWING UPDATE

Half of all sophomores have already participated in the Job Shadowing opportunity, and are reporting back about their wonderful experiences. Recently students have shadowed at an engineering firm, a veterinarian, Mark Twain House for creative writing, Park Road Playhouse, a dentist office and five students shadowed at one law firm – one at a time, each for a full day! We appreciate the generosity of our Greater Hartford businesses who offer these wonderful opportunities to our students and we make sure they hear that directly from our students. Following is another letter written by a student to the professional they shadowed.



Dear Dr. Rossler:

I would just like to thank you for allowing me to job shadow you Wednesday, November 5th. After the job shadow I had a better understanding of Dentistry and still have an interest in becoming one. This prepared me for the next step I this career.

I was most pleased about how you were able to guide me through the steps of cleaning, whitening and fillings. As you were performing the different tasks, you made sure I understood what you were doing before you moved on. It was interesting to see the materials and tools you used, especially since they were highly technical. The laser you used to numb the patient was news to me because I am only familiar with b an injection and would much rather experience the laser.

I observed how important teamwork is in order for the office to run smoothly. This is something I will pay more attention to in my classwork. Overall this shadow just reinforced my decision to become a dentist.

I want to thank you for taking time to showcase your profession and also for partnering with my high school, Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy. Without your involvement students would not get the information needed to make an informed college decision.

Again, thank you for your time and patience. It was a great experience and I would highly recommend it to other students.

Sincerely,
Jibril Issak

PS: Thank you for the Subway.

Community News

FROM OUR HOUSE TO YOUR HOUSE

The High School Girls Club has built a very special bond with the Marshall House, a local shelter for families and single mothers in Hartford. As they did last year, the girls are collecting new, unwrapped toys for the children who will be spending their holidays without a home of their own. To brighten, what can be a very dark and difficult time, the Girls Club will be accepting donations through December 15th in Ms. Cavanaugh's room, MC1. Toys that have been hits before are board games, books, art supplies and gift cards. Last year the girls from HMTCA, said they got as much, if not more, out of bringing the toys to the children, as the children did who received them. This is the gift of community service and giving- everyone wins.



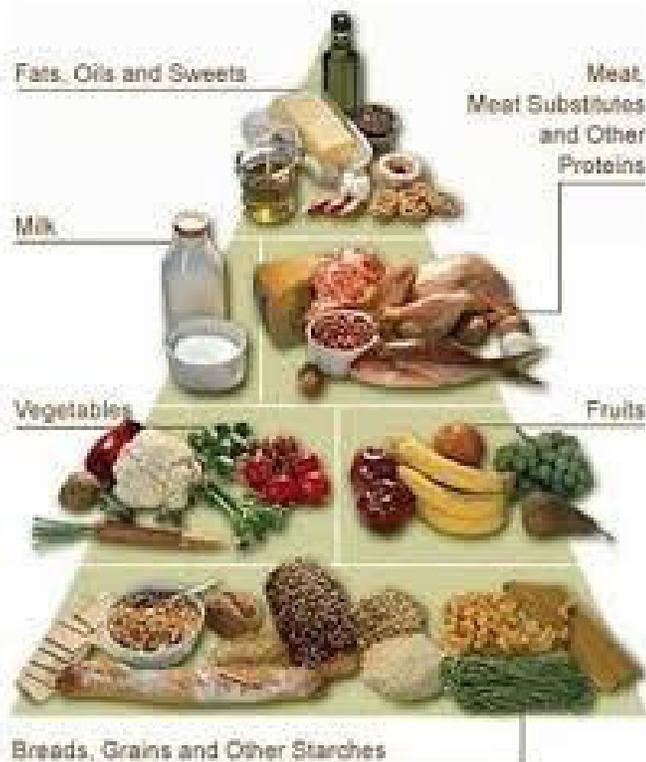
HMTCA-COMPASS FOOD PANTRY TO OPEN SOON

We are proud and happy to announce that the HMTCA-COMPASS food pantry will begin operation this winter. The pantry will serve the needs of both our school and the surrounding community. In the beginning, we will open twice a month on Fridays and clients will be able to receive a food supply that will feed them for three to five days, once a month. Each grade will be assigned a food group from the food pyramid, with a very specific list of non-perishable items that they will collect. We ask that you send in ONLY those items on the list. The items can be dropped off at the COMPASS office. You can make a one-time donation or become a "PANTRY PARTNER" and donate on a monthly basis. We hope you will consider joining this school wide effort and help in the battle against hunger. Sixth Grade has the Bread, Grains and other Starches category and the desired items are: Rice, Pasta, Mac and Cheese, Oatmeal, Pancake Mix, Graham Crackers, Granola Bars and Flour Seventh Grade has the Fruits and Vegetables category and the desired items are: Canned Fruit, Raisins, Applesauce, Canned or Boxed 100% Juice, V-8 Juice, Spaghetti Sauce, Canned Vegetables, and Vegetable Soup

Eighth Grade has the Meat, Proteins and Milk category and the desired items are: Canned Tuna, Canned Chicken, Canned Beef Stew, Bean Soups, Canned Chili, Canned or Dried Beans, Canned or Boxed Pudding and Powdered Milk

High School has the Fats, Oils, Sweets and More category and the desired items are:

Jelly and Jam, Honey, Sugar, Syrup, Boxed Cereal, and Muffin Mix



DON'T FORGET OUR FURRY FRIENDS



The National Junior Honor Society also wanted to help during this holiday season and they have chosen to focus on the animals who are often abandoned or abused and wind up in shelters. These shelters are always looking for donations to help support their rescue efforts. The most needed items are blankets, towels, wet and dry pet food, toys and treats. Donations are being accepted through Thursday, December 18th and will benefit the CT Humane Society, Double Dog Rescue, and the Fox Memorial Clinic.



BREAKFAST AND A PHOTO WITH SANTA- WHAT COULD TOP THAT?

The National Honor Society and COMPASS have teamed up for an unbelievable holiday event. On Saturday, December 13th from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM the HMTCA café will be the happiest place to be. A full breakfast will be served and there will be a holiday movie, games, music, giveaways, arts & crafts and, as if that weren't enough, photos with Santa!!!! How much does all this cost? A new, unwrapped toy is your admission for everything. In case you are looking for some suggestions they would love anything from new baby clothing or toys, diapers, remote control toys, K'nex or Lego sets, art supplies, sports balls, Forever 21 or H&M jewelry to gift cards from places like iTunes, Walmart, Champs, or Toys-Rus. Please remember these are only suggestions and anything that you can donate is going to make some child have a much happier holiday.

This event is open to the entire community so please join us and invite your friends to come as well.



Performance Arts Presents...

As the holiday season arrives, it is also the time of year when many of our HMTCA students, from grades six through twelve, have the opportunity to showcase their effort and talent in our holiday concerts. The Performing Arts departments are proud to present the results of our students' hard work in six performances over the next few weeks. It means a lot to our students to have the support of parents/guardians, relatives, friends, staff and their peers in the audience!

Here is a list of the upcoming performances so you can mark your calendars:

Tuesday, December 9th at 6:30 PM the High School Choir will perform at the Trinity Chapel

Monday, December 15th at 6:30 PM the Middle School Chorus will perform at the theatre

Tuesday, December 16th at 6:30 PM the Middle School Orchestra will perform at the theatre

Wednesday, December 17th at 6:30 PM the High School Band and High School Stage Band will perform at the theatre

Tuesday, January 13th at 6:30 PM the Middle School Band will perform at the theatre

Thursday, January 29th at 6:30 PM our first annual dance concert will be at the theatre

The teachers and students of our Performing Arts departments appreciate your support and welcome you to come and enjoy the many talents our students have to share!



Focus On Our Students

7th Grade World History Class



For the month of December, 7th grade world history students will pick up where they left off prior to their trip to Nature's classroom. They will complete their unit on Rome and students will have a major exam on Rome the 16th or 17th of the month depending on their class period. Each student will receive a study guide for that exam Monday the 8th or Tuesday the 9th. We recommend ample study time for optimum success. Once Rome is complete students will take a short journey into the Byzantine Empire before heading off for the holiday break.

SUBWAY, LIMOUSINE OR BOTH?

Fourteen of our students were whisked away in a stretch limousine and taken to Subway for lunch. Although this may sound like a strange excursion, the kids had a blast and for most of them it was their first time riding in a limousine. The trip was a prize for selling \$250 or more in the Fall Fundraiser. In fact, our top seller in the entire school, sixth grader Leigh-Anne Labad doubled that and singlehandedly sold \$500!!

A DIFFERENT KIND OF CLASSROOM



Each year our seventh graders are treated to a week at Nature's Classroom. Started in 1973, Nature's Classroom "is a hands-on educational program with an emphasis on team building and experience-based learning in an outdoor setting." Our kids have a simpler way of explaining it, "FUN"! The week long activities revolve around field groups (small) centered on team-building, classes which are more structured and academically oriented, large group activities and evening events such as night hikes. Some of the highlights of this year's trip were small animal dissections, yoga, making rocket launchers with materials such as plastic bottles, glowsticks, modified wings, etc., hikes, hikes and more hikes, the Ort report which taught them about wasting food, exploring the Earth's crust using Rice Crispy Treats, playing a unique version of Capture the Flag and "Thursday Night Live" which was a goodbye scene where the kids got to do some improvisation.



Sports News

WINTER SPORTS ARE OFF AND RUNNING

There is a lot happening in our winter sports programs and all of our sports have started practicing. We have a lot of sore muscles that haven't been used in a while but the students are happily getting back in the swing of things. Many of our sports start games within the next two weeks so keep your eyes on our sports page for the latest results.



THE SCORE WAS WHAT???????

Being a staff member, it is hard not to gloat just a little bit over our victory in the student/staff basketball game, which was played right before the Thanksgiving recess. The students put up a great fight but it is hard to defeat the likes of Kramer, Hefernan, Hasspacher, Stanizzi, Journet, Smith, Blustein, Mitchell, Walker, Changanaqui and the Farmer brothers. The score was 107-78 but what was most important was the energy, the excitement and the fun that the entire middle school had. The Marching Phoenix Band rocked the house and it was a great way to start the Thanksgiving break.



We thought our parents might find this list of coaches helpful in case you need to contact them.

Varsity Boys Basketball

Jeff Kramer kramj001@hartfordschools.org

JV Boys Basketball

Stockton Farmer FARMS001@hartfordschools.org

Varsity Girls Basketball

Cindy Turcotte TURCC001@hartfordschools.org

Varsity Indoor Track

James Bengiovanni bengj001@hartfordschools.org

Chrissy Kemp christian.kemp@hartfordschools.org

Varsity Cheerleading

Lindsay Boyer lindsay.boyer@hartfordschools.org

Tiffany Webley tiffany.webley@hartfordschools.org

Middle School Boys Basketball

Melvin Mitchell MITCM001@hartfordschools.org

Middle School Girls basketball

Jason Smith smitj001@hartfordschools.org

Middle School Indoor Track

Theresa Kemp kempt001@hartfordschools.org

Middle School Boys & Girls Swimming

Max Olsen max.olsen@hartfordschools.org

Middle School Cheerleading

Andrea Heller a.heller921@gmil.com



Upcoming Events



**MIDDLE SCHOOL CHORUS WINTER
GOVERNANCE MEETING
CONCERT**

Monday, January 12th
Monday, December 15th
5:30 PM PD Room
6:30 PM Theatre

**MIDDLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA
MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND
WINTER CONCERT
WINTER CONCERT**

Tuesday, December 16th
Tuesday, January 13th
6:30 PM Trinity Chapel
6:30 PM Theatre

**HIGH SCHOOL BAND
EARLY RELEASE & 3RD FLEX DAY
WINTER CONCERT**

Wednesday, January 14th
Wednesday, December 17th
12:00 DISMISSAL
6:30 PM Theatre
NO COMPASS

**COMPASS MID-YEAR SHOWCASE
HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR PLANNING
NIGHT**

Friday, December 19th
Wednesday, January 14th
6:30 PM Café
6:30 PM Library

**WINTER RECESS
WINTER DANCE CONCERT
NO SCHOOL**

Thursday, January 15th
Wednesday, December 24th -
6:30 PM Theatre
Tuesday, January 6th

**PTO MEETING
8th GRADE EXAMS BEGIN
Thursday, January 8th
Friday, January 16th
6:30 PM Cafe**

