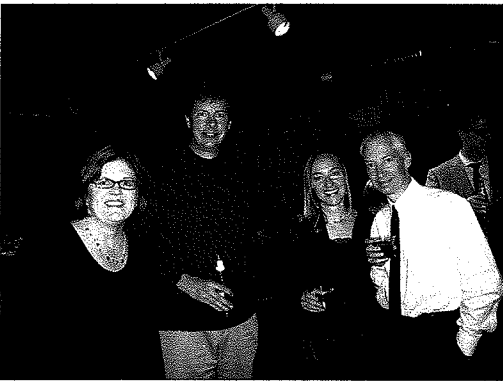


# Hartford News

A Newsletter of the Hartford University School for Urban Explorations  
2227 E. Hartford Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53211  
(414) 906-4700

## Friends of Hartford

For the 7th straight year, Hartford parents, teachers, staff, alumni, neighbors, and friends got together in November to raise money for the arts at Hartford. Through a silent and verbal auction, the people that gathered raised thousands of dollars to help keep the programs for the arts strong at Hartford. The event this year was held at a new venue, RedLine (1422 N. 4th Street). This beautiful gallery was not only large enough to comfortably hold the crowd, but was also well suited for displaying the art of many of Hartford's students. Thanks to Steve Vande Zande for hosting the event at RedLine. A big thanks goes RedLine, the donors (see p. 8), the planning committee (p. 7), and everyone who attended. Thanks also to the food donors: Sendik's on Downer, Sendik's in Whitefish Bay, Sendik's on Oakland, Beans and Barley, and Harry's Bar and Restaurant. Thanks to co-chairs Margaret and Dave Cory who coordinated the event and to auctioneer Pat Reavey who moved things along smoothly. Thanks also to the Hartford office staff for their help, to UWM Children's center for making jewelry, and to anyone else who helped in even the smallest of ways!



Margaret & Dave Cory with Lisa & Paul Hanel enjoy the event

## MPS Registration Begins in January

The registration period for MPS schools is January 11-29. Students who would like to sign up to attend Hartford should be sure to sign up before the registration period ends. Remind your friends, relatives, and neighbors that Hartford has waiting lists every year. Don't let them be left out - sign up in January! If you know someone who is interested in the school, encourage them to call Mr. Humpa in the office to schedule a tour and appointment with Dr. Ellwood. For more information about the MPS enrollment process, go to p. 10.

December 2009

## Calendar

12/17	Scripps Spelling Bee 9:00 am
12/23 to 1/3	No School Winter Recess
1/4	Back to School
1/5	High School Selection Mtg (8th gr parents) 10:00 (see p. 10)
1/6	High School Selection Mtg (8th gr parents) 3:00 (see p. 10)
1/7	Governance Council Meeting 4:30-6:30 pm
1/7	PSO Meeting 6:30-7:30 pm
1/18	No School
1/21	Governance Council Budget Work Session 4:30-6:30 pm
1/22	No School
1/25	No School
2/11	Governance Council Meeting 4:30-6:00 pm
2/11	PSO Meeting 6:00-7:30 pm
2/12	No School <i>(was originally a school day)</i>
2/15	No School

# Winter Weather is Here!!

Winter is definitely here!! When heavy snow, temperatures below freezing, and hazardous road conditions threaten, the MPS Superintendent will generally decide whether or not to close schools by 5:30 am. The closing of MPS schools is announced on Channels 4, 6, 12, and 58 and WTMJ radio (AM 620), among other places. You can also go to the MPS home page — if you see the picture of the little girl with a snowflake, there is important weather information affecting MPS. When MPS schools are closed prior to the start of the school day, all afternoon and evening activities (recreation, athletics, and academic activities) are also cancelled. Please be sure to send your child to school unless an official announcement to close school has been made.

## Six Flags Reading Club

Hartford is participating in Six Flags' Read to Succeed Reading Club. The Club encourages kids in grades K through 6 to read for fun. Every student who participates will receive a free ticket to Six Flags upon the completion of 6 hours of recreational reading before the end of February. Children in classrooms that are participating will receive a reading log to bring home. The child then logs 360 minutes (6 hours) of recreational reading — books, magazines, newspapers, or comic books. An adult initials the log to verify that the child met the requirement for 6 hours of reading. Though reading for homework does not count, other types of reading can add to the total whether the child reads alone or with an adult. Because late entries will not be eligible for a Six Flags' ticket, be sure to submit the completed form by the deadline date on the form. The Reading Club coordinator for Hartford is Ms. Lathrop, so any questions may be directed to her. There will be more information coming home soon for students in classrooms that participate.

## Hartford Schedule

As you probably know, Hartford operates on a six-day schedule. The days are lettered from A through F, counting only school days—if Friday was a C day then Monday will be a D day. Keeping track of the schedule is tricky. Instead of a student having gym class on Mondays, maybe she has it on B days. After winter break, the first day back is January 4th, which is a B day. Perhaps this schedule of A days may help you keep track:

January 11  
January 20  
February 1  
February 9  
February 18  
February 26  
March 8  
March 18  
March 26

As always, the schedule is subject to change.

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Articles for this newsletter may be submitted by any Hartford student, parent, or staff member. The deadline for the next newsletter is January 7<sup>th</sup>. Are there events or community activities that you would like to hear more about or share with others? Leave your articles for submission in the PSO mailbox in the office. Please write "Newsletter" on your submission so that it is routed properly. You may also e-mail submissions to danburz@att.net. Call Dan Burzynski at 263-0685 with any questions about submissions or the newsletter.

## Easy Thumbprint Cookies

2/3 c. sugar  
1 c. butter (softened)  
1/2 tsp. almond extract  
2 c. flour  
seedless raspberry (or strawberry) jam

1 c. powdered sugar  
1.5 tsp. almond extract  
2 tsp. water

Combine the first three ingredients until smooth. Add flour and blend. Shape dough into 1" balls and indent the center with your thumb. Fill the indentation with 1/2 tsp. of jam. Bake at 350 degrees for 14-18 minutes. Blend the final three ingredients to make the frosting, and drizzle over the cookies when they are cool.

## PSO Meeting - Jan. 7th

Hartford's next PSO meeting will be held on Thursday, January 7th at 6:00 in the school library. This is an important meeting because it will be an opportunity to discuss the school budget for the coming school year. All parents are invited to attend the meeting and learn more about what is happening at Hartford and offer feedback and ideas. Childcare is provided in the art room by middle school students.

Are you unable to attend the meeting, but would like to stay in touch with what is happening at Hartford and at the PSO meetings? Send an e-mail to the PSO Co-Chair Paula Storniolo at [paulastorniolo@northwesternmutual.com](mailto:paulastorniolo@northwesternmutual.com). Paula will add you to the parent e-mail list. You will receive occasional e-mails with PSO minutes and volunteer requests.



## School Climate Survey

You can still take the annual MPS Climate Survey! The district encourages parents to complete the survey in order to gather the opinions about each school from parents, students, and staff. The survey is available now and will be completed on December 22. The survey takes about 10-15 minutes to complete and is available in English, Spanish, and Hmong. All surveys are confidential. The survey can be taken online at home, at school, or anywhere that has a computer with internet access. A paper copy is also available in the Hartford office. Please ask for help at the office if needed. You can take the survey now by logging on to [www.milwaukee.k12.wi.us](http://www.milwaukee.k12.wi.us). Go to the Parent page and click on the Parent Climate Survey. Students are encouraged to take a student survey. For more information, call 475-8225.

## Mad Hot Ballroom and Tap

Hartford will again participate in the Mad Hot Ballroom and Tap program this year. Both 5th grade classrooms will work with professional dance instructors from Danceworks to learn the fundamentals of ballroom and tap dancing. Besides teaching dance, the program also serves to help students learn rhythm, remember routines, work with a partner or in a group, express emotion with their bodies, understand the mathematical structure of dance, perform in front of a crowd, and understand and accept criticism. The instruction will occur at Hartford for 12 weeks beginning in February, culminating in a 40-school competition at the Bradley Center on May 8th and 15th. There will also be an exhibition at Hartford, at a date to be announced later. Watch future newsletters for more information or visit [www.danceworksmke.org](http://www.danceworksmke.org).

# Growth, Development, and Sexuality

Last year, the MPS health curriculum moved the initial discussion of human development and sexuality from 5th grade to 4th grade. While that may seem an early age to discuss "the birds and the bees," it is an important time to begin discussing human sexuality. According to a Youth Risk Behavior Survey given to a sample of MPS students in 2009, 25% of middle school students report having had sex. Additionally, 8% of middle school students reported having sexual intercourse before age 11. MPS encourages parents to begin talking to their children about sexuality, health, and responsibility while they are young - very young. The school can provide some information and guidance as part of the health curriculum, but parents are the primary teachers of their children in this regard. It is important to start the conversation early and continue the conversation about healthy sexuality as kids grow. Experts agree that children need their parents to regularly discuss their sexuality and relationships with them - not just a one day talk about how babies are made, but an ongoing conversation about how to have healthy relationships with others. Kids have questions, concerns, emotions, and confusion that parents are in the best position to understand and explain. More than talk, our children also need us to demonstrate what healthy relationships are. For parents who are unsure how to begin or what to say, there are some resources available from the MPS Office of Wellness and Prevention at [www.wellnessandpreventionoffice.org](http://www.wellnessandpreventionoffice.org).

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## Bullying

### Best Friends and Best Men

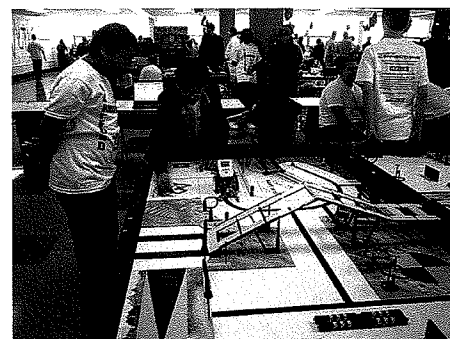
Hartford is one of the 9 MPS Middle Schools that are participating in the Best Friends and Best Men programs. The Best Friends (for girls) and Best Men (for boys) programs are character-building curricula for adolescents that contain messages about abstinence from sex, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and violence. The programs also promote conflict resolution, healthy eating, fitness, community service, and positive body image. The programs strive to identify risky behaviors that may hinder students' opportunities later in life, and to provide the support that students need to make good decisions. The students meet once a month for 90 minutes with their program coordinators and mentors, who serve as guides and role models. For more information about the programs, go to [www.bestfriendsfoundation.org](http://www.bestfriendsfoundation.org) or the MPS Office of Wellness and Prevention website at [www.wellnessandpreventionoffice.org](http://www.wellnessandpreventionoffice.org).

National studies have estimated that between 15% and 30% of students are being bullied or bullying others. Bullying can take the form of physical aggression, fights, threats, name-calling, teasing, and harassment. No matter what form it takes, bullying in any form is unacceptable at Hartford. Bullying is anti-social behavior that negatively affects the school climate, academic outcomes, student relationships, and emotional health. How do you know if your child is being bullied? Bullying often involves fear and shame, and kids may not want to talk about it. Bullied students often experience a change in behavior or attitudes that parents may notice. If a child suddenly becomes withdrawn or tries to avoid school, he or she may be trying to avoid bullies. Bullying may also cause physical symptoms like headaches, problems sleeping, or stomachaches. If you believe your child may be bullied, discuss it with your child's teacher. The teacher may not even be aware of the bullying, and your child may not want to talk about it with the teacher.

# Hartford's First Lego League Teams

This November, Hartford participated in the First Lego League (FLL) Robotics Competition for the 2nd year. The purpose of FLL is to encourage kids' interest in science, technology, and engineering. Hartford was the only MPS school in the competition, and performed very well despite overcoming some challenges with their equipment. Congratulations to everyone who participated and thanks to Mr. Wamser for coordinating the teams. What was it like in the heat of competition? Perhaps the diary of Lorenzo Ramirez can offer some insight:

8:30 am: Tired but anxious students file in to Marquette High School, robots and project boards in hand. Team registration begins and 23 teams sign in. At 9am, pit tables open so tweaking and final adjustments to robots can be made. Then project interviews also begin. Hartford Team 2412 consisted of Sierra Boyce, Sierra Randall, Segwich Martin, Clare Loughran, Nick D'Amato, Daniel Tesfaye, and Oscar Sprangers. Their project was on Segways. Hartford Team 2413 consisted of Alonzo Davis, Tom Horgan, Albair McMurray, Hasan Hayder, and Lorenzo Ramirez. They did a project on the Mid-west High Speed Rail System.



9:15 am: After project interviews come technical interviews, where judges ask all about the robots and programs. The last interview is about teamwork. Teams draw a card from an envelope with a word on it and whatever it says, they build using pieces from a big box of Legos. After the interviews, it's time for lunch and a half hour period for the pits.

12:30 pm: The opening ceremony takes place; then the competition begins. Teams run their robots on a game board and try to complete as many tasks as possible in two and a half minutes. This is the most exciting yet nerve-racking experience. Each team gets three tries at the competition with 45 minutes breaks in between attempts.



4:45 pm: The awards, congratulations, and thanks are given. In the end, Hartford Team 2413 was announced as the **first runner-up** to go to the state competition. At 5:15, the clean-up crew comes and weary but contented students file out of Marquette High School. By 5:30, the halls are clear of young engineers-to-be.

Congratulations to Hartford's robotics teams! **First runner-up!** You can be proud of your achievement!

## Room Parent Volunteers (RPVs)

There are a lot of opportunities for Hartford families to gather (such as family nights), but it is rare to have a chance to spend quality time in a cozy setting to meet your child's classmates and their families. Many parents probably remember running into their classmates at the grocery store or neighborhood hang-outs. With a diverse student body scattered throughout the city, Hartford students are simply less likely to run into their classmates outside of school. That also makes it hard for parents to meet the parents of their child's friends.

A small group of parents have decided to work to create opportunities for Hartford families to get together with other families at each grade level. It is really hard to meet people in the middle of a chaotic family night. Our idea is to help parent volunteers plan some small group events just for each grade — maybe a potluck for the 2nd grade, the 4th grade sledding after school, an evening pizza party for the K4, or the 7th graders meeting to go ice skating. Though teachers would be welcome, parents would do the work. The time and place would be up to whoever coordinates it. We aren't thinking of anything too organized, just creating social opportunities for anyone who may be interested. Before Pumpkin Night, the 3rd grade families had a pizza party in Room 25, and it was a fun & casual way for parents to meet each other and let the kids play together before heading to the gym. We are meeting at Hartford at 6:00 on Jan. 14, Feb. 18, Mar. 18, and Apr. 29 to come up with other ideas. If you are interested in helping at your child's grade, please contact Lanesha Baldwin-Rojas at HartfordRPV@yahoo.com. Even if you can't come to meetings, we need people who can volunteer (even if for only one event).

## Boys' Basketball—4th through 6th Grades

The season has already started for the 4th-5th grade Boys' Basketball and 6th grade Boys' Basketball teams. Both will play their games at North Division High School (1011 W. Center Street) on Saturdays. The 6th grade team competes at 2:00 pm each Saturday in a 7 team league against Ben Franklin, Carson Academy, Gaenslen, Hopkins, Starms, and the Milwaukee Academy of Chinese Language. They are scheduled for league play for 7 weeks followed by 3 weeks of playoffs. The combined 4th and 5th grade team competes in a 6 team division against Carson Academy, Golda Meir B, Hi-Mount, Maryland, and Urban Day for the first 5 weeks. They then play 2 games against teams from the other division in their league, followed by 3 weeks of playoffs. Their games are at either 11:00 or noon. Team pictures for both teams will be taken at the gym on Saturday, February 6th. February 6th is also fundraising day — everyone attending will be charged admission that week (\$1.00 adults, \$0.50 children). Though subject to change, the posted schedules are:

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	4th-5th Grade	Court	6th Grade	Court
Dec. 5th	11:00	Ct. 3	2:00	Ct. 3
Dec. 12th	11:00	Ct. 1	2:00	Ct. 4
Dec. 19th	11:00	Ct. 1	2:00	Ct. 2
Jan. 9th	11:00	Ct. 3	2:00	Ct. 1
Jan. 16th	11:00	Ct. 2	2:00	Ct. 1
Jan. 23rd	12:00	Ct. 2	2:00	Ct. 2
Jan. 30th	11:00	Ct. 3	2:00	Ct. 3
Feb. 6th, 13th, 20th	TBA*	TBA	TBA*	TBA

\* Playoffs

## Friends of Hartford Committee

The Friends of Hartford Committee worked very hard to make this year's fundraiser a success. An amazing event like this is not possible without a lot of hard work planning, organizing, and soliciting donations. Thanks to co-chairs Dave and Margaret Cory for their leadership. Thanks to the entire committee: Margaret Cory, Dave Cory, Cynthia Ellwood, Jean Gatz, Heather Anthony, Julie Colucci, Catherine Fouliard, Deaduri Gales, Lisa Hanel, Jennifer Hagen, Rebecca Holderness, Lakiesha McMurray, Laurel Poytinger, Maureen O'Meara Rowen, Mary Smith, and Steve Vande Zande. Thanks, too, to everyone who helped get donations, made donations, attended, set up, cleaned up, or talked up the event. Your help is appreciated!!



### ACE Update

One of the purposes of the ACE music program is to expose students to a wide variety of music, and that has never been more true than the past month. In the last few weeks, Hartford has been visited by the MSO Science Duo (5th grade), the Chromatic Trio (2nd grade), the percussion duo Mrs. Fun (5th grade), the Milwaukee Jazz Experience (1st grade), Wild Space Dance Company (2nd grade) and composer John Tanner (5th grade). Students at Hartford don't just go to concerts, but also get to meet musicians, learn how to dance, try out instruments, learn about the structure of music, experiment with sounds, and discover the history of American and world music. Hartford students are lucky for this opportunity!

## Hartford Recognizes Mary Nohl

It has become a tradition at the Friends of Hartford Fall Fundraiser to recognize the achievements of a former alumnus of Hartford or someone who has otherwise supported the school. This year, an award was presented to Mary Nohl. Though Ms. Nohl died in 2001, she is remembered as a great supporter of the arts. When she died, she left her inherited fortune of over \$11 million to the Greater Milwaukee Foundation to support art education and fellowships for artists. Mary Nohl was an accomplished artist who graduated from the Art Institute in Chicago and taught art in junior high schools. However, she is best known for the concrete sculptures of people, animals, and dinosaurs that decorate the yard of her Fox Point home. Though many knew her as the Witch of Fox Point for the eerie feeling produced by the sculptures in her yard, you may not know that she was a proud product of Hartford Avenue School. She attributed her early interest in art to her grade school education at Hartford. In her adulthood, she used nearly every media available to produce unique art throughout her home and yard. Whether using concrete, clay, sand, oil paints, glass, shells, driftwood, or chicken bones, her art embraces both classical forms and traditional folk art styles.

The award was graciously accepted by Lynn Lucious, who works with the Mary Nohl Fund to continue Ms. Nohl's support of the arts.

If you want to find out more about Mary Nohl, check out a recently published book about her entitled *Mary Nohl: Inside and Outside: Biography of the Artist*. If you scan the book carefully, you may find evidence of her Hartford connection.

## Friends of Hartford Donors

The Friends of Hartford Fundraiser could not have been a success without the generosity of the individuals and businesses who donated items for the auction. These people deserve our thanks and have earned our business by their commitment to Hartford's education. A big thank-you to:

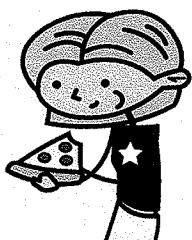
Acanthus Inn	Einstein's Bagels	Milwaukee Public Museum
Actaea	Elements East	Milwaukee Repertory Theatre
David Adams	Dr. Cynthia Ellwood	Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra
Alliance Francaise	Executive Edge	Milwaukee World Festivals
Alliant Physical Therapy Group	Fein Brothers, Inc.	MMSD
Ambassador Hotel	Four Seasons Skate Park	Lisa Mosier
Heather Anthony	Catherine Friedman	Bella's
Art Trooper	Friends of the Domes	PB Loco
Bayside Garden Center	Jean Gatz	Pfister Hotel
Bartolotta's Restaurant Group	German Fest	Laurel Poytinger
Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra	The Garden Room	Present Music
Beans and Barley	Glorioso's	Anthony Ramirez
Betty Brinn Children's Museum	Green Bay Packers	Reiki for Kids
Birdie's Café	Mary Harrison	Rishi Tea
Boutique Bebe	Harry's Bar & Restaurant	Nicole Rabaseato
Gerry Broderick	C. Kay Hinchliffe	Riverside Theatre
Bronze Optical	Vicki Hinshaw	Schuster Mansion
Donn and Kathleen Kirchhoff	Dana Hoffman	Sendik's on Downer
Dan and Becky Burzynski	Shequisha Holman	Sendik's on Oakland
Mike and Ericka Burzynski	Susan Holmstrom	Sendik's in Whitefish Bay
Café Coquette	Impressions Salon	Shoot the Moon
Café 1505	In Vivo Wellness Center	Shari and Mark Solheim
Capitol Grill	J K Lee Tae Kwon Do	Scott Spoerl
Capricio Salon & Spa	Just Kidding	Sprecher Brewing Co
Cempazuchi	Kelmann Corporation	Starbucks
Lakeside School of Massage Therapy	Kohl Charities	Stone Creek Coffee
Central Bark	Koss Corporation	Morgan Stranahan
Mary Anne Ceraso-Alioto	Landmark Theaters	TGIFridays
Chiropractic Company	Kirsten Lathrop	Curves
The Chocolate Factory	Robert Laurence	Time Warner Cable
Community Bark	Life Photography	Turner Hall
Cory the Bike Fixer	Deb Lindsey	Uniquely Yours
Clark Graphics	Sue Loesl	Urban Ecology Center
Julie Colucci	Kelly Lowery	UWM Athletic Department
Margaret and David Cory	Ma Jolie	UWM Bookstore
William and Marlene Cory	Lakiesha McMurray	UWM Children's Center
Marquette University Student Union	Magneto Power	Emily Wagner
Danceworks, Inc.	Milwaukee Admirals	Ashley Wedige
Diablos Rojos, Inc.	Milwaukee Art Museum	Bob Werner
Diane Diamond	Milwaukee Brewers	Rae Williams
Downer Hardware	Milwaukee Bucks	Les Ciseaux
East Side Turners		



## Mr. Z's Fundraiser Summary

With a tough economy, we knew that the profits from the Mr. Z's sale proceeds would be down this year. It is a hard time to do any kind of fundraising. The good news is that the decline was not what other schools have experienced and not as bad as many had worried. This year's Fall Mr. Z's Fundraiser for Hartford's PSO sold over \$10,000 worth of products. Our sales totals this year were similar to what they were in 2006. Though nowhere near the record profits last year or in 2007, the profit will be similar to what it was in 2004-2006. Our final profit is expected to be about \$5,000. That money will enable the Hartford PSO to continue to support family nights, classroom activities, sports, and staff appreciation events. With the reduced income, though, there are some things that the PSO had supported in the past 2 years that it cannot afford. Some tough decisions may need to be made. Please come to upcoming PSO meetings if you would like to vote on requests for how to use the money.

All of the students who participated can be proud of their contribution toward Hartford's success. A few students (and their parents) should be especially recognized for their hard work and amazing sales totals. The student who sold the most items was **Araeya Huerta**, with over \$685 worth of items sold. Wow!! Other students who sold over \$300 worth of products include **Marissa Morgan**, **Omar Anderson**, **London Goodman**, **Valli Stewart-Funk**, and **Imani Anderson**. Thank you for all your hard work.



Some classes sold an amazing amount of Mr. Z's products as a group. **Room 25** (Ms. Peoples' and Ms. Zaren's 3rd grade) sold \$1,268 worth of items! Other classes that had more than \$1,000 worth of sales included **Room 12** (Ms. Whyte's K4), **Room 17** (Ms. Wagner's and Ms. Groser's K5), and **Room 28** (Mr. Adams' and Ms. Bremer's 2nd grade). Congratulations!!

Congratulations to everyone who was randomly selected to win prizes, especially the family of Imani Anderson, which won the grand prize of a Visa gift card.

### Note from the Mr. Z's Parent Volunteer Coordinator:

This was the 4th and final year that I coordinated the Mr. Z's sale. I want to thank the people who made the sale successful for so many years. Though I appreciate the kids who sold things, I know that parents usually do most of the work. Not many schools have such cooperative parents. Thanks for organizing the orders, coordinating payments, sending things in on time, and being patient when things went wrong. The sale would not have been possible without the support of the teachers and staff of the school, who do much of the work. In particular, Ms. Lane and Ms. Peoples have always really encouraged their students to participate and Mr. Humpa and the office staff did a lot of behind-the-scenes work. Thanks to all of the volunteers who have helped over the years, especially Paula Storniolo, Kathy Ramirez, and Maria Dixon.

-Dan Burzynski

# Selecting a School

January is once again the time of year for selecting a school in MPS. In December, families with school-aged children in Milwaukee should receive a booklet entitled *Directions*. Also available at libraries, the booklet lists all of the MPS schools and contains the Three-Choice Selection form.

**If you will stay at Hartford next year:** You do not need to do anything. Students will continue to be enrolled in their current school unless they choose another.

**If you will complete 8th grade in June:** Many students have already completed the early enrollment process for MPS's most selective high schools. Some of those schools are already full. If you were not accepted into one of the early enrollment schools, you should complete the Three-Choice Selection process in January. You should also consider attending an information session with Ms. Kush, Hartford's school counselor (see the box below). Ms. Kush is the best resource for information about high schools and how to apply. There is also a high school fair at Grand Avenue Mall on Jan. 16th.

**The Three-Choice Selection Process:** Three-Choice Selection is the process of assigning schools to students in MPS. Students list the three schools, in order of preference, where they would like to attend. Anyone who completes the form during the enrollment period has an equal chance to be chosen for a school. The enrollment period runs from January 11-29. The majority of students who participate in this process will be accepted into their first-choice school. Students who are not accepted into their first-choice school will be placed on a waiting list for that school, should seats open up. Nearly all students who apply by the January 29th deadline will be able to attend one of the three schools listed

on their selection form as their top three choices.

Suburban schools are not part of MPS and do not get listed on MPS's selection form. Students who would like to attend a school outside of MPS may apply to suburban schools through Open Enrollment. Open Enrollment gives schools the chance to accept students from outside of their district if they choose to. Though some suburban schools may participate in Open Enrollment, others do not. In the open enrollment process, schools do not have to accept students who apply. Contact the school to find out if they are participating in Open Enrollment next year and if they are accepting new students. Minority students in some zip codes may apply to some suburban schools through the Chapter 220 program. If you are interested in Chapter 220, contact the school you would like to attend to see if it participates in Chapter 220, if it has seats available, and if you live in an eligible zip code.

## 8th Grade Families

### High School Selection Meeting

All 8th grade students and their parents are invited to an informational meeting on high school selection. If your child has not yet been accepted to a high school or is on a wait list for 2010, this meeting is for you!! Maggie Kush, Hartford's School Counselor, will be holding 2 information sessions regarding MPS Three-Choice Selection, Open Enrollment, and Chapter 220. Attend either session:

Tues, Jan. 5 10-11 am Hartford library

Wed, Jan. 6 3-4 pm Room 8

If you have any questions, contact Ms. Kush at 906-4725 or [kushmr@milwaukee.k12.wi.us](mailto:kushmr@milwaukee.k12.wi.us).

## Parking

Do not park on Maryland Avenue or Hartford Avenue! These streets need to be clear so that buses may use them. This is especially true in winter. Children can be dropped off on Maryland Avenue, but not picked up there. If you need to get out of your car (that is, you are picking up your child), park in the school lot.

## Spelling Bee

Preparation continues for the Second Annual Scripps Spelling Bee at Hartford. The Spelling Bee is planned for Thursday, December 17th at 9:00 am. Make plans now to attend. There will be students in grades 3 through 8 at Hartford who will participate. The winner of the Spelling Bee will represent Hartford at regional bees. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, contact Maria Dixon (Hartford parent) at [mdjdixon@yahoo.com](mailto:mdjdixon@yahoo.com).



## Thanks to the Mr. Z's Volunteers

One of the most demanding parts of the Mr. Z's sale happens behind the scenes. On the day of delivery, the Mr. Z's truck arrives at 2:30. By 4:00, all of the items (1200 this year) are unloaded, organized, and ready for pick-up. That is only possible with the hard work of a dozen or so volunteers. This year, the Girl Scouts of Troop 3283 did the majority of the heavy lifting. Thanks to Ms. Hoffman and Ms. Pitts for coordinating the girls. Under the direction of Rob Biskobing, the 5th grade girl scouts and some other volunteers did a great job with the distribution this year. Thanks to:



Kyla & Danielle unload orders.

Trinity Rush  
Kyla Thompson  
Lyric Robinson  
Destiny Bullock  
Lucy Burzynski  
Anna Hoffman  
Audrey Biskobing  
Dan Burzynski

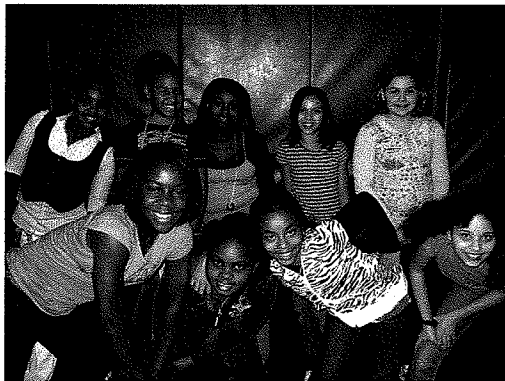
Katie Jackson  
Briyari Johnson  
Danielle N. Hoffman  
Sarah Smith  
David Biskobing  
Marquelle Boone  
Bella Burzynski  
Maria Dixon

Thanks also to the people who helped organize the orders, Kelly Lawrence and Maria Dixon. They managed the difficult job of organizing the orders and preparing the money for deposit. Thanks!



Lyric & Trinity—ready to take your order.

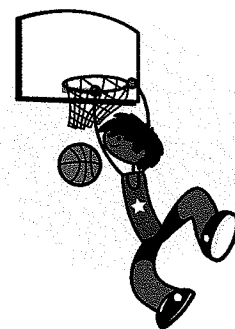
Girl Scout volunteers who unloaded the Mr. Z's truck.



Finally, thanks to Dan Burzynski for coordinating the sale for the 4th time. Over the past 4 years, Dan has worked hard to make the entire sale as smooth as possible for the staff, students, and volunteers of Hartford. He has put in a lot of hours collecting orders, working with Mr. Z's, sending reminder notes home, organizing orders, coordinating delivery, troubleshooting any problems, and summarizing the sale for the PSO. Since this was Dan's last year coordinating the sale, please consider serving as the chairperson for the sale next year. The Mr. Z's sale earns thousands of dollars for the school and needs your help!

## Girls' Basketball—4th through 6th Grades

The Girls' Basketball season has begun for the girls in 4th -6th grades. This year, there is a 6th grade team and a 4th-5th grade team. Both will play their games at Custer High School (5075 N. Sherman Blvd.) on Saturdays. The 6th grade team competes in an 8 team league against Barton, DLH Academy, Carson Academy, Congress, Craig, Sherman, and 35th Street. The combined 4th and 5th grade team competes in a 4 team league against Carson Academy, DLH Academy, and Thurston Woods. All girls need to be sure to sign in when they arrive at Custer. Please arrive 15 minutes before the game for warm-ups. Do not wear jewelry (including earrings) or beads in your hair (rubber bands or other soft hair



fasteners are okay). As you can see from the schedule below, you can also plan to come early or stay late to cheer on your fellow Hartford Hawks. Team pictures for both teams will be taken at the gym on Saturday, February 6th. Though subject to change, the posted schedules are:

	4th-5th Grade	Court	6th Grade	Court
Dec. 5th	12:00	Ct. 1	11:00	Ct. 2
Dec. 12th	12:00	Ct. 2	10:00	Ct. 1
Dec. 19th	12:00	Ct. 2	10:00	Ct. 2
Jan. 9th	12:00	Ct. 2	11:00	Ct. 2
Jan. 16th	12:00	Ct. 1	11:00	Ct. 1
Jan. 23rd	12:00	Ct. 1	10:00	Ct. 2
Jan. 30th	12:00	Ct. 1	10:00	Ct. 2
Feb. 6th	12:00	Ct. 2	TBA	TBA
Feb. 13th	12:00	Ct. 2	TBA	TBA
Feb. 20th	12:00	TBA	TBA	TBA

### Monster Bash

About 50 Hartford Middle School students hosted a Monster Bash on October 28th. The bash was an opportunity for the older students of Hartford to tell stories, read poetry, tell jokes, and create funny dances for many of Hartford's elementary students. It was great fun for both the performers and the audience. Thanks, Ms. Poytinger, for putting together this enjoyable way to break up the rigorous Fall schedule a little and to create a great performance opportunity!

### Winter Farmers' Market

Though the snow has started to fall, not all of the farmer's markets have closed. Everyone is invited to attend a weekly indoor farmers' market at State Fair Park. Vendors will be on hand to sell produce, meats, and prepared food products all winter and spring. The market will be each Saturday (except 12/26) until April 24th from 8:00 am until noon. The Market will be at the Tommy Thompson Youth Center Ag Village at State Fair Park (640 N. 84th St.). Entry to the free parking is through Gate 5 of the park.

Please remember that there is no school on Friday, February 12th. It had previously been scheduled as a school day but is now a day off.

## Hartford Performs!!

Some Hartford students will be joining the Milwaukee Kiwanis Club for their annual Holiday Luncheon on Wed., December 16th. Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world, and they have invited some students to provide the entertainment for their December luncheon at the Hilton Milwaukee City Center ballroom. The 7th grade Hand Chime Choir from Room 9 will perform, along with the 3rd graders of Room 25 who will sing. This is an amazing opportunity to showcase students' talents to the business community of Milwaukee. Thanks for representing Hartford with pride!

## Proper Bus Behavior

Good conduct on the bus is important to bus safety. Most of the rules can be summarized simply — sit quietly in the bus seat and listen to the bus driver. Students are expected to remain orderly when getting on and off the bus, obey the bus driver at all times, remain in their seats, and keep items out of the aisles. Bus drivers are authorized to assign seats, and students are expected to comply with seat assignments. Rules of conduct on the bus include:

- Do not use profanity or disrespectful language.
- Stay in your seat at all times.
- Keep hands, heads, and feet in the bus.
- Do not yell, talk loudly, or make loud noises.
- Do not fight or shove others.
- Do not eat or drink on the bus. This includes all food and drink, such as candy or gum.
- Keep the bus clean and put garbage in the trash can.
- Do not throw anything out of the windows.
- Do not bring flammable materials such as lighters or matches on the bus.
- Do not damage or tamper with the bus or equipment. Vandalism may be prosecuted and tampering with the emergency door may result in immediate suspension.

Riding the bus is a privilege. Students who do not follow the rules of conduct may be removed from the bus. Students who continue to misbehave on the bus may be permanently removed from the bus.



## Hartford Students Attend the UWM Symphony

The Hartford University student body, K5 through 8th grade, was privileged to attend an exclusive concert performed by the UWM Symphony Orchestra on December 3rd. The UWM Orchestra, under the leadership of Margery Deutsch, is well known throughout the Midwest as one of the top student ensembles. Hartford students were able to not only experience a live symphony concert, but also to see students perform who will soon be professional musicians. They also learned which instruments create the themes from Jaws or Super Mario Brothers, and what the Indiana Jones theme sounds like live. Such an amazing opportunity is only possible through Hartford's proximity to the UWM campus and strong relationship with the UWM music department. Thanks to Ms. Poytinger for nurturing that relationship. The UWM Symphony performs concerts throughout the year that are open to the public. Their performances generally cost \$7-10, and are worth every penny. For more information about the UWM Symphony and their upcoming performances, visit [www4.uwm.edu/psoa/programs/music/orchestras\\_program.html](http://www4.uwm.edu/psoa/programs/music/orchestras_program.html).