

Hartford News

A Newsletter of the Hartford University School for Urban Explorations
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Hartford Spelling Bee

The Second Annual Scripps Spelling Bee was held at Hartford on December 17th. After weeks of studying, 6 middle schoolers and 15 elementary students finally got a chance to meet the challenge of spelling on stage. Thanks to all of the participating students and parents for their hard work. Though there was only one winner at each level, all of the students greatly improved their spelling skills. Both of the winners received a trophy and a year's subscription to Britannica Online. Congratulations!

Among the middle school students (grades 6-8), there were 4 rounds in which all of the students got to spell. Once there were only 2 students remaining, Curtis Cook and Oscar Sprangers, they began a series of 10 championship rounds. In the end, Oscar Sprangers (a 6th grader in Ms. Rowen's classroom) was named the middle school champion. The runner-up was Curtis Cook (a 7th grader in Ms. Lane's class). Both of them will proceed to CESA's Regional Spelling Bee on February 3rd at Greendale Middle School. Congratulations to both of you!

On the elementary side, there were 15 participants in grades 3 through 5 who went for 6 rounds before there were only two spellers left. In the end, Katie Jackson (a 5th grader in Mr. Moses' room) was named the champion and Sierra Rojas (a 3rd grader in Ms. Kazmierski's class) was the runner-up. Katie will represent Hartford at the Regional Spelling Bee on February 3rd at Greendale Middle School. Great work!

Thanks to Maria Dixon, the parent volunteer who coordinated the Spelling Bee and handled all of the preparations. She has been the driving force behind the Spelling Bee at Hartford for the last 2 years and deserves a lot of praise for her commitment and passion. Thanks to Mr. Dunning, Ms. Kelsch, and Ms. Lathrop, who volunteered to be judges. Thanks to parent Roderick Rush, who volunteered to be the pronouncer at the Bee. Thanks also to Dr. Ellwood, Ms. Tessara, Ms. Coleman, and Mr. Humpa for all of their support and help. Finally, thanks to Mr. Dunning for allowing his classroom to be used for the spelling practices each Monday.

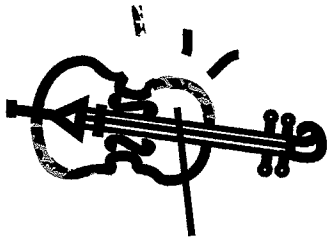
January 2010

Calendar

1/18	No School
1/21	Governance Council Budget Work Session 4:30-6:30 pm
1/22	No School
1/25	No School
1/28	Snuggle Up and Read 6:00-8:00 pm
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
2/25	Family Heritage Night 6:00-8:00 pm
3/4	Governance Council Meeting 4:30-6:00 pm
3/4	PSO Meeting 6:00-7:30 pm
3/9	Parent-Teacher
3/10	Conferences
3/12	No School

The Mary Horwitt Piano Scholarship

Scholarship applications are being accepted for MPS students in grades 6 through 11 who take piano lessons. Students at beginning, intermediate, or advanced levels may apply. The Mary Horwitt Piano Scholarship is a \$1,000 scholarship toward piano study at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music during the 2010-2011 school year. Since the scholarship was created 9 years ago, more than 30 MPS students have received the Mary Horwitt Piano Scholarship. Last year, four MPS students had the opportunity to study at the Conservatory through the scholarship. Students who are interested should request an application from Ms. Poytinger. The application must include a one-page personal statement of the student's musical background, interest, and goals; a letter of recommendation from the student's piano teacher; and a three to five minute audio tape of the student playing the piano. All materials should be sent to Karen Deschere at the Milwaukee Conservatory of Music (1584 N. Prospect Ave.). The deadline for submitting scholarship applications is March 1, 2010. Contact Ms. Poytinger for more information.



ACE Visits

The ACE (Arts in Community Education) program continues to bring music to the classroom. The kindergarten students continued their year-long focus on the different families within music (brass, woodwinds, etc...). On Jan. 7th, some of the musicians from the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra with low instruments came to visit the kindergarten classes. They were able to let the students hear where the bass sounds of the orchestra come from. The 1st graders have been learning about musicians as storytellers in this year's curriculum. Their visit from the Milwaukee Jazz Experience on Jan. 12th drew on the extensive history of jazz to show how a tale can be told through music.

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.

Articles for this newsletter may be submitted by any Hartford student, parent, or staff member. The deadline for the next newsletter is February 11th. 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.

Lunch Menus

You may have noticed that the MPS Lunch Menu now rotates according to a fixed schedule. The district has 4 weekly menu schedules. Even if you don't have the daily schedule in front of you, you can know that it will be the same as it was 4 weeks ago. If lunch is corn dogs on Monday, there will be an Italian parmesan sandwich on the menu for Tuesday. The menu on the week of January 11th (menu #4) is the same as the menu during the week of December 14th. Furthermore, the side dishes that are matched with the main dishes will remain the same. For example, a soft shell taco will always be served with Spanish rice, refried beans, and fruit. If you have any questions about the MPS lunch menus, go to mpsportal.milwaukee.k12.wi.us and click on the apple along the left column.



Free Dental Exams

The Marquette School of Dentistry (1801 W. Wisconsin Avenue) is giving free dental examinations to children ages 3 to 16 on Saturday, January 23rd. Examinations will be from 9:00 to noon (as capacity allows), with some treatment appointments being available to be made on Friday, February 5th. The examinations will be provided by dental students under the supervision of their professors and other dentists. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian for both the examinations on the 23rd and any future treatments. The program is brought to you by the Greater Milwaukee Dental Association and the Marquette University School of Dentistry.

January 2010

Hartford's New Website!

After some hard work by Ms. Lane, the Hartford University School website is up and running. Set up on Weebly.com, the site is at <http://HartfordUniversitySchool.weebly.com>. There will be more content added soon, but there are already some great pictures, forms you may need, and general information about the school available at the site. You can look up the dates of coming events, find staff e-mail addresses, review the school dress code, look at a syllabus from any class, find out about Love and Logic, see some pictures of recent events, or find out more about the school. You can also leave a question or comment. There will be more information coming soon, so be sure to check back occasionally to find out more.

Tell everyone you know, friends and family, to visit HartfordUniversitySchool.weebly.com!!

PSO Meeting - Feb. 11th

Hartford's next PSO meeting will be held on Thursday, February 11th at 6:00 in the school library. 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. Paula will add you to the parent e-mail list. You will receive occasional e-mails with PSO minutes and volunteer requests.

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Snuggle Up and Read—With the Milwaukee Bucks!!

Thursday January 28th, 6:00-8:00 pm

For the second year in a row, Sam's Hope Literacy Foundation and the Milwaukee Bucks invite Hartford families to attend Literacy Night at Hartford University School. Last year, Luc Mbah a Moute and Joe Alexander spent the evening at the school and read to the kids. We know Bango will be there, but which Milwaukee Bucks will show up this year? Make plans to show up at the school at 6:00 pm on Thursday, January 28th to find out! If you arrive at 6:00, you will be able to participate with the Bucks in their reading program. Every child will go home with a free book, so be sure to complete the registration form that was sent home last week. By returning that form to your child's teacher, Sam's Hope Literacy Foundation can have age-appropriate books for all children. Scheduled events include:

- Reading with Milwaukee Bucks players
- Listening to poetry readings by Hartford students
- Meeting the Bucks mascot, Bango
- Viewing student writing displays
- Purchasing hot dogs, popcorn, chips, and soda
- Receiving a free book (one per child)

Reservations are required!! Return the registration form to your child's teacher. To get more information or ask questions, contact Ms. Lathrop at 906-4720 or LathroKM@milwaukee.k12.wi.us.



Music Under the Glass

The Mitchell Park Conservatory, known as "The Domes" (524 S. Layton Blvd.) has a family-friendly way to get out of the house this winter without freezing. The Domes will host live music on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30 from now until March 18th. Whether blues, doo wop, folk, Dixieland, pop, or bluegrass, everyone can find the music for them on this year's schedule. For more information or a complete schedule, call 257-PARK or visit www.countyparks.com.

Library Hours

Because of budget cuts, there have been some changes to the schedule of hours at Milwaukee Public Libraries. If you use the libraries, you may want to call the library hours hotline at 286-3287 before heading out. You can also pick up a schedule of hours at your local library. To summarize, most libraries will open for shorter hours each day (generally 10-5 or 1-8). Other than the Central and Center Street libraries, Milwaukee's libraries will be closed either Fridays (Atkinson, Bay View, East, Mill Road, Zablocki) or Saturdays (Capitol, Forest Home, King, Tippecanoe, Villard, and Washington). Libraries will only have Sunday hours from 1-5 pm, October through April. There will also be some furlough days when all libraries will be closed (April 5, May 28, July 2, September 3). Be sure to call 286-3287 or visit www.mpl.org before going to the library.

Resources

Are you looking for internet resources for parents and families? Why not try:

www.HopeNetworkInc.org

This website is designed as a network for single moms, but has a lot of information that could be useful to all parents.

www.ILike2Learn.com

Learn your geography (kids and adults) by taking quizzes about different countries, states and geographic features. Can you place all of the countries in Africa? Can you identify the world's longest rivers? Do you know all the state capitals? Find out!

www.BadgerLink.net

Use online encyclopedias, search newspaper articles, or find educational resources at this site.

www.WisconsinHeritage.org

This site provides a wealth of information about Wisconsin—our history, heritage, culture, and people. The site draws on digital photo collections throughout the state to help you find what you are looking for.

Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe

Hartford continues to use PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) to encourage positive behaviors at school. Rather than just punishing or correcting negative or disruptive behaviors, PBIS seeks to encourage and support positive behaviors. The focus is for students to be respectful, be responsible, and be safe. Just as the teachers can talk to students about what those behaviors look like in the classroom, on the playground, or in the hallway, parents can tell kids what it means to be respectful, responsible, and safe at home. Tell your children exactly how you expect them to behave in the car, at the dinner table, and while playing outside. Model the appropriate behavior yourself and support your children when they demonstrate the proper behavior. Following the PBIS expectations may look slightly different at home than at school:

PBIS Expectation

Be Respectful

Be Responsible

Be Safe

Home Examples

Ask instead of demand

Say "please" and "thank you"

Look at adults when they are talking

Clean up toys when finished playing

Do chores around the house

Wash hands after using the bathroom

Walk up and down stairs

Look both ways when crossing the street

Use eating utensils properly

Students are being rewarded at school when they display positive behaviors at school; why not reward them at home? Home rewards do not need to cost anything. Consider rewards such as:

- Let him/her stay up 10 minutes past bedtime
- Cook your child's favorite meal
- Give your child extra computer time or reading time at home
- Let him/her get out of doing chores for a day
- Color, draw, play a game, or read with your child
- Send a note to your child's teacher telling him/her what a great job the child is doing at home

MPS School Selection - Invite Friends to Hartford!

January is once again the time of year for selecting a school in MPS. The three-choice school selection program runs from January 11th through the 29th. Families with school-aged children in Milwaukee should have received a booklet entitled *Directions*. Also available at libraries, the booklet lists all of the MPS schools and contains the Three-Choice Selection form. If your child will continue to attend Hartford next year, you do not need to re-enroll your child or do anything. Currently registered Hart-

Hartford will be hosting an open house in May for parents and families who would like to know more about Hartford—those who either signed up for the 2010-11 school year or who are interested in finding out more about the school. More information will come home soon, but interested families can call the office if they would like a phone call when the event is scheduled.

ford students will continue to be enrolled as students until choosing otherwise (or completing 8th grade!). 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 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 participate in the three-choice process by January 29th are placed in one of the schools listed on their selection form as one of their top three choices.

It is well known that the source of most new students at Hartford University School is current students and their families. If you ask Hartford families how they chose Hartford, you would hear many of them say that they heard good things about Hartford from friends, neighbors, relatives. Now is the time to encourage your friends and relatives to register for Hartford. The seats at Hartford fill up fast, and waiting lists develop at nearly every grade. Families who wait until spring or summer to register will likely find Hartford full. Applications are available in the office. Please consider:

- Families interested in Hartford are encouraged to take a tour while school is in session. To set up a personal tour, encourage parents to call Mr. Humpa in the office at 906-4700 to schedule an appointment with Dr. Ellwood. A parent who shows up unannounced may be disappointed if Dr. Ellwood is unavailable or out of the building. Parents who would just like to look around are encouraged to stop by during the school day on Wednesday, January 20th. You can also encourage them to visit during Snuggle Up and Read on January 28th (see page 4).
- Hartford is a Neighborhood Specialty School. Students in the neighborhood have first priority, but students from anywhere in the city can choose to attend Hartford if seats are available.
- Hartford is school #208. It is located in the Riverside transportation district, but as a Neighborhood Specialty School provides transportation from anywhere between one to seven miles away.
- The application has room for families to make three choices of school. The names of students who do not get into their first choice are automatically put on that school's wait list. Children are not automatically put on the wait list for their 2nd or 3rd choice.
- When allocating limited available seats, MPS does consider whether or not a new student already has a sibling at Hartford. Be sure to fill in the Sibling ID information on the application for the brother or sister of students who are already at Hartford.

A Message from the Principal to Prospective Students

Welcome to Hartford University School! We are honored that you are considering Hartford for your child(ren). Fundamentally, Hartford is about providing to all students the rich, challenging education normally reserved only for the very privileged. Three aspects distinguish Hartford. First, we strive to develop in children the capacity to think deeply, critically and creatively. Second, we believe education in the arts is essential for young people, and we continue to expand the arts opportunities available to our children. Finally, at Hartford we are not only committed to developing leaders, we are committed to developing leaders who have thought about and practiced fairness, cooperation, and social justice. In short, we strive every day to nurture thoughtful, highly educated young people who lead from the heart.

The success of any school depends on excellent staff members. Hartford's staff members are superb - in every classroom and in every role. I feel very fortunate to work with this team of caring and capable professionals.

Success does not depend only on staff and student leadership, however. Hartford University School's parents play a strong, positive role, whether at home, in the classroom or in the school as a whole. A network of supportive university partners, community members, arts organizations, alumni and the Friends of Hartford round out our family. Come join our family!

Cynthia M. Ellwood
Hartford Principal

Volunteers are needed to help new parents find out about Hartford. From 8:00 to 2:00 on January 20th and during Snuggle Up and Read on January 28th, Dr. Ellwood will give tours of the school to families who are interested in Hartford. She could use the help of parents of current students to talk to families, answer questions, and tell them about Hartford. Please call Dr. Ellwood if you can help.

Biennial Music Festival

The 43rd MPS Biennial Music Festival is tentatively scheduled for May 5th and 6th at the U.S. Cellular Arena. Begun in 1924, the festival showcases the musical talent from throughout MPS. Some Hartford students will once again participate in the elementary band and choir. Students who will participate in the festival will soon receive information about their role. Instrumental students will begin Saturday practices in February, while the grades that will join the district choir will soon begin learning the songs that they will perform. More information will be sent home soon.

Hartford Spirit Wear

Wanting to know where you can get that awesome Hartford Spirit Wear you have been seeing? You can order it right from the school! We have hooded and hoodless sweatshirts in a variety of colors and sizes for \$14 (hoodless) and \$21 (hooded). There are also Hartford blue polo shirts (\$14) and button-down denims (\$21) and amazing zippered fleece jackets (\$31). All come with an embroidered Hartford Hawk and school logo. Please stop in the office or in room 9 for an order sheet! THANK YOU.

Not sure what to do this summer? The MetroParent Camp and Education Fair is coming to Divine Savior Holy Angels School (4257 N. 100th St.) on Saturday, February 27th from 10 to 3. It is a great chance to find out about summer activities.

Winterfest

The Urban Ecology Center (UEC) is hosting its annual Winterfest festival on Saturday, January 30th at Washington Park (41st and Lisbon). From noon to 4:00, there will be sledding, ice skating on the lagoon, showshoeing, hikes, and indoor crafts. The activities are free for everyone! For more information, call the Urban Ecology Center at 964-8505 for visit www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org.

Winter Weather

Winter is finally here, and it is important to be ready for it. Make sure that your children are dressed properly each day. Even if the weather may not seem too terribly bad where you live, remember that it may be cooler or windier at the school. Also remember that the temperature can easily drop 10 to 15 degrees during the school day. Winter jackets, hats, gloves, and snow pants are a must when the temperature drops below freezing. Additionally, consider putting away the short-sleeved shirts and skirts for winter. The Hartford building is an old and drafty building that can be difficult to keep warm or to warm up quickly.

If your child is missing a glove or hat, don't assume that it is gone forever. There is a large (and growing) pile of items in the Lost and Found in the hallway outside of the auditorium. Stop by and look for missing winter clothes. Consider labeling clothes to make them easier to identify.

Do you want to be the first to know about school closings? Sign up for text or e-mail alerts at www.620WTMJ.com. In the site's *On Demand* section, click on *Text Alerts*. You can sign up to receive text and/or e-mail alerts regarding closings within MPS (or any other school or business) as soon as they are announced to the media. Register at the site now to get timely text alerts before the next snowstorm. The service is free, though your regular text fees may apply.

Wisconsin Wizards Basketball Program

Wisconsin Wizards is a basketball program that provides opportunities for youth in southeastern Wisconsin to sharpen their basketball skills after their school's basketball season. The Wisconsin Wizards sponsors teams for boys and girls in grades 4-11, providing them the chance to compete locally and regionally from March through July. The goal is to develop each player's individual skill level to allow kids to compete at a higher level in order to benefit their respective school-based teams. The tryout for the various boys' 4th-8th grade teams will be on January 17th and 24th. The tryout for the girls' teams will be on February 7th through 14th. The tryouts will be held at St. Marcus Lutheran Church on 2215 N. Palmer. Athletes are encouraged to pre-register for the tryouts. Practices may be at St. Marcus' gym or St. Catherine's gym on 51st and Center, depending on the team. To pre-register or find out more, contact Coach Ken at 406-2426 or tkennyray1@aol.com. There is more information about the Wisconsin Wizards at www.WiWizards.com