

Hartford News

A Newsletter of the Hartford University School for Urban Explorations
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Mr. Z's Sale

This year's Mr. Z's fundraiser was over on October 26th. As everyone expected during some tough economic times, the sale this year did not come close to last year's record-setting amounts. Though it is clear that kids and families tried hard to sell the products, fundraising these days can be tough. The good news is that we still were able to sell over \$11,000 worth of items, which is consistent with sales during 2006 and before. Depending on how things go on pick-up day, we expect to earn a profit of over \$4,700. This fundraiser is very important because it is the primary way that the PSO raises money. The money raised will help pay for family nights (like the Pasta Dinner and Pumpkin Night), class field trips, athletic uniforms, staff appreciation activities, and other school events. The pick-up date for all items is Thursday, November 19th from 4:00 to 6:00. Please do not come early to pick up items! It takes a while to unload the truck. All items must be picked up on the 19th or they will be returned to Mr. Z's for a refund. The school does not have room to store anything that is not picked up. Students who included a phone number on the order form should receive a phone call reminding parents of the pick-up, but please be sure to plan now to pick up what you ordered. All students who sold at least one item will be entered in a drawing to win fun prizes! If you have any questions, please call the Parent Coordinator for the Sale. You can reach Dan Burzynski at 263-0685 or by e-mail at danburz@att.net. Also, volunteers are needed! If you can help unload the truck from 2 to 4 or help distribute products in the gym from 4 to 6, please call Dan as well.

Remember, everyone who sells at least one item will be entered into a drawing and some students are randomly selected to win prizes. We cannot give prizes based on who sells the most items, or give prizes for students who sell 5, 10, 15, etc... items. This is not Mr. Z's policy or Hartford's own policy, it is the policy put forth by the School Board for all MPS schools. If you disagree with the policy, and many people do, please contact your School Board representative. Only he or she can change the policy.

November 2009

Calendar

11/19	Mr. Z Sale Pick-up 4:00-6:00 pm
11/21	Friends of Hartford Arts Fundraiser 6:30 to 10:00 pm
11/26	No School
11/27	No School
12/4	There is school today. It is not a day off.
12/10	Governance Council 4:30-6:00 pm
12/17	Scripps Spelling Bee 9:00 am
12/22	Last Day of School
12/23 to 1/3	No School Winter Break
1/4	Back to School
1/7	Governance Council 4:30-6:00 pm
1/7	PSO Meeting 6:00-7:30 pm

Friends of Hartford Plans Annual Fundraiser

Saturday, November 21st

The Friends of Hartford is a group of parents, staff, and friends of Hartford who are committed to raising money to support Hartford's excellence. This year, Margaret and Dave Cory will chair the event. The Friends of Hartford will hold their annual fundraiser on Saturday, November 21st to support the many great things happening at Hartford. We hope to raise \$15,000 again this year! Once again, the funds raised from the verbal and silent auction this year will directly sup-

port the programs for the Arts at Hartford. Last year's auction raised enough money to support artists-in-residence in each classroom. The auction this year is sure to include restaurant gift certificates, tickets for theatre and sporting events, and creative masterpieces. Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 21st at 6:30 pm. Be sure to invite family and friends. The event will be held at a new venue this year, RedLine (1422 N. 4th Street). Flyers have been sent home with more information.

Tickets for the event are available in the office. Tickets are \$25 per person (\$50 per couple).

For more information, to make a donation for the auction, or to help solicit donations for the event, contact Margaret Cory at 964-7690 or mcory@wi.rr.com. Volunteers are needed to help make the event a success. We really need your help. Meetings are held every other week in the school library.

Spelling Bee

Preparation has begun 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.

Signing Up for High School

Eighth graders—Don't forget that the Open Enrollment period for approximately 22 MPS schools ends on November 25th. Many good schools, such as King, Riverside, High School of the Arts, Reagan, Bradley Tech, and Hamilton will likely fill up by the end of the Early Enrollment period. If you have any questions about planning for high school, contact Ms. Kush at 906-4725 or kushmr@milwaukee.k12.wi.us.

Articles for this newsletter may be submitted by any Hartford student, parent, or staff member. If you are aware of any social, recreational, or academic events in Milwaukee, please consider including them in the newsletter. The deadline for the last newsletter of the calendar year is December 10th. 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.

The Public School

One of the great things about Hartford being a *public* school is that there is so much public information available about your school. If you want to read the school's educational plan, see the ethnic make-up of the student body, view the results of recent climate surveys, or find out how the school's students have done on standardized tests in recent years, you (or anyone) can do so. Go to the MPS website. On the menu bar to the left of the home page, click on *School Pages*, then *Elementary F— I*. You can click on *Hartford University School* and view all sorts of information about the school. Hartford values this kind of transparency. Take advantage of the information to be an informed parent and to spread the word about Hartford.

The Milwaukee Public Schools' website at www.milwaukee.k12.wi.us provides information about all of the district schools, making it possible for you to compare schools, see recent trends, and understand what is happening throughout the district. Take a look!

Riverside Craft Fair

The band and orchestra boosters of Riverside High School are having their 3rd Annual Craft Bazaar on Saturday, December 12th from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. There are over 30 vendors with hand-crafted jewelry, knit items, toys, decorations, and even chocolates! You can find that one-of-a-kind gift for someone you love or something special for yourself. Stop by our Riverside neighbors (1615 E. Locust St.) to check it out!

Drop-off and Pick-up Times

Please note that the school day at Hartford officially begins at 7:45 and ends at 2:30 pm. Students generally begin dismissal at 2:15. Please be sure that your child is being dropped off by 7:45 and is not being picked up before 2:15. When picking up your child, please wait for them outside the walker room (auditorium). Do not go to the classroom to pick up your child because it can be disruptive to the class.

There have been an increasing number of day care vans (throughout the district, not just at Hartford) that have been scheduling arrival after the start of the school day or trying to pick up children before the end of the school day. It is important that your child is able to receive a full day of education each day. Please remind your day care that Hartford will not release students before 2:15, regardless of when day care vans arrive.

There is school on Friday, December 4th. It had originally been scheduled as a day off, but students will have school that day. School will instead be off on Feb. 12th.

Peanut Butter Cereal Bars

An often-requested recipe at bake sales and PSO meetings. Making it couldn't be easier.

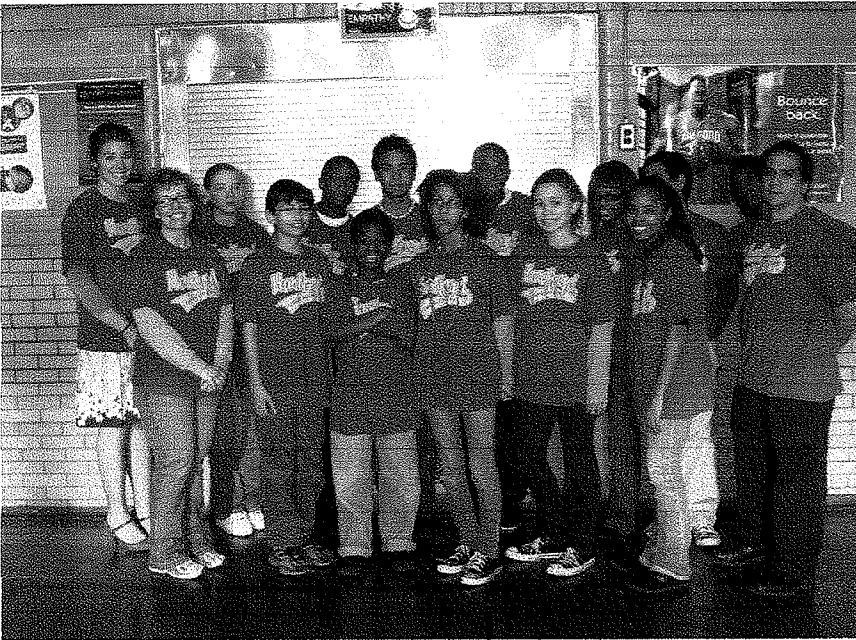
- 1 c. sugar
- 1 c. light corn syrup
- 1 Tbl. water
- 1 c. creamy peanut butter
- 6 c. Cheerios, Special K, or Rice Krispies
- 12 oz. chocolate chips

In a saucepan, heat the sugar, corn syrup and water until starting to boil. Turn off the heat, and stir in peanut butter until smooth. Pour over the cereal and stir until cereal is well coated. Pour into a 9 x 13 pan. Once cooled, melt the chocolate and spread over the top.

Hartford Cross Country

For the second year, Ms. Zeise has led Hartford's growing cross country team. The running program has expanded, not just at Hartford but also at other schools. Last year, there were only three schools that fielded teams. This year, there were 5 teams that competed during the season — Hartford, Fairview, Morse, Tippecanoe, and Fritsche. At the last meet, a sixth team (from Craig) joined in. The season consisted of 6 meets, varying in distance from 1.0 to 1.3 miles. Because the program is new and still relatively small, the boys and girls run together and then team scores are calculated based upon each students' overall place in the race. Both boys' and girls' scores are used to calculate the team scores. Medals are then given to the top ten girls and top ten boys. As a team, Hartford was nearly unbeatable this season. The runners worked well together as a team — supportive and encouraging of one another. As individuals, each runner showed improvements during the season and had strong showings at the meets. They all worked hard, got stronger, and wanted Hartford to win. Congratulations to all of the runners (with their highest places in parentheses): Alonzo Davis (3rd), April Pigg (5th), Brittani Cook (9th), Daquan McCroy (1st), Hannah Smith (1st), Kamerin Carter (3rd), Keith Leahy (21st), Lorenzo Ramirez (4th), Nikki Norman (2nd), Quintell McCroy (15th), Saabirah Abdullah (1st), and Zane McSharin (2nd).

Date	Location	Team Score	Top Hartford Performers
Sept. 17	Washington Park	2nd	Hannah (1st), Nikki (2nd), Lorenzo (5th), Saabirah (6th)
Sept. 24	Lake Park	1st	Daquan (2nd), Saabirah (2nd), Zane (6th), Nikki (8th)
Oct. 8	Humboldt Park	1st	Saabirah (2nd), Daquan (2nd), Zane (4th), Hannah (7th)
Oct. 15	McCarty Park	1st	Daquan (1st), Hannah (2nd), Zane (3rd), Saabirah (7th)
Oct. 17	Washington Park	1st	Zane (2nd), Alonzo (3rd), Kamerin (3rd), Lorenzo (4th)
Nov. 5	Kern Park	1st	Saabirah (1st), Zane (3rd), Lorenzo (4th), April (5th)



Thanks to all the runners for their hard work. Thanks to the PSO for buying t-shirts for the team to wear when competing and representing Hartford. Thanks to Ms. Zeise for her leadership in coaching the team. She was lucky this year to have Anthony Ramirez (Lorenzo and Zachary's dad) and Ms. Wedige (Ms. Lane's student teacher) to help coach. By running with the students at practices, cheering at meets, and helping to run the meets, they were helpful and motivating to the Hartford runners. Let's hope everyone keeps training in the off-season and is ready to run next fall. Will you join them?

Winter Sports

Winter sports have started or are starting soon at Hartford. Please remember that any student who wants to participate in sports must pay the \$20 athletic fee, which is a once-a-year fee that covers all sports. Also, students are expected to live up to Hartford's behavior expectations. Athletes are expected to listen to the coaches and practice good sportsmanship toward teammates and opponents. Students should demonstrate appropriate behavior in school, at practices, and at games. Students who do not live up to the Hartford behavior expectations will not be allowed to participate in sports. All students, grades 4-8 must have permission from their teacher and parent to participate. Students in grades 6-8 must also maintain a 2.0 grade point average (GPA) in order to play sports at Hartford. It is important that all student athletes (and their parents) know that sports involve commitment. If you are on a team, be sure to attend all practices and games. Be ready to participate, with the proper clothing or uniform. A tentative schedule of sports is below, though subject to change.

<u>Grades</u>	<u>Sport</u>	<u>Practice Day</u>	<u>Practices Begin</u>	<u>Games Begin</u>
7th & 8th gr. boys	basketball	Mondays	December	01/09/2010
4th & 5th gr. boys	basketball	Tuesdays	November	12/05/2009
5th & 6th gr. boys	basketball	Wednesdays	November	12/05/2009
7th & 8th gr. girls	volleyball	Thursdays	December	01/09/2010
4th & 5th gr. girls	basketball	Fridays	November	12/05/2009
5th & 6th gr. girls	basketball	Fridays	November	12/05/2009

All practices will be held after school and will finish at 4:00 pm. It is very important that parents are on time and pick up their children at 4:00 pm!! Middle school students (6th-8th grades) will be issued bus tickets in order to take the bus home. Students taking the bus home must have permission from their parents to do so. Please contact the school if you have questions about athletics.

Teaching Award

Everyone at Hartford knows about our great art teacher, Mr. Vande Zande. What you may not realize is that the rest of the community recognizes how great he is. Earlier this year, Mr. Vande Zande received an award from the College of Education at Marquette University. He was named the "Outstanding Faculty Lecturer for Educational Policy and Leadership" for 2009. Hartford is glad that he has been recognized for his outstanding work. Congratulations, Mr. V.!!!

The program to provide money to schools in exchange for collecting Nestle water bottle labels has closed. Please do not send Nestle labels to school at this time. Nestle may re-start the program soon, but we are not collecting labels for now.

WKCE Testing

The Standardized testing period for Hartford students is over. Like other Wisconsin public school students, Hartford students in grades 3 through 8 took the WKCE (Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam) during the month of November. Sometime in February or early March, parents will receive Individual Profile Reports explaining their student's academic performance according to the tests. The reports provide the student's scores, as well as the proficiency levels. Why are the reports not released until February? Rather than just scoring a student according to the final answers, many of the test problems are scored individually by an educator to assess how well the student is able to formulate and think through the answer. The goal, according to the No Child Left Behind Act, is that all students will be either proficient or advanced in all tested areas (the other levels are minimal or basic). Though the WKCE will be replaced by another testing method in 2011, it will still be in place next year. For more information about Wisconsin's academic standards and WKCE testing go to <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/wkce.html>.

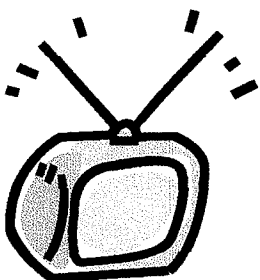


Operation STAMPS

Members of America's armed services continue to serve in Iraq, Afghanistan, and throughout the world. MPS and the US Postal Service have partnered to create the STAMPS program — Sending Thanks Abroad from Milwaukee Public Schools. The idea behind the STAMPS program is to encourage students to prepare art or letters to send to the troops, as a way to show that the kids appreciate and thank them for their service. Some students at Hartford will join over 80 other MPS schools in this effort to support our troops. Hartford will be given US Postal Service bags to fill with letters or art to be mailed overseas at no charge to the district.

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Dr. Ellwood: Television Star



Dr. Ellwood is once again being publicly recognized for her excellent leadership at Hartford. Milwaukee Public Television has created a documentary profiling three successful principals in Milwaukee, and Dr. Ellwood is one of the featured leaders. The show is entitled *Principals Vol. 1* and profiles three principals whose style and leadership are making their schools successful. In addition to Hartford University School, the show features Bruce Guadalupe School and George Washington Carver Academy. The show is expected to air on MPTV on Monday, November 16th at 8:00 pm, but may be replayed another time. Check your local listings to confirm the time.

A special preview of the show was held at Discovery World on November 5th. As part of the Community Cinema series, Discovery World aired the program on the big screen and then provided an opportunity for open discussion. The discussion featured Dr. Ellwood, Pascual Rodriguez, and Dr. Floyd Williams Jr., all of whom are featured in the program. Congratulations to Dr. Ellwood and thanks for publicly presenting Hartford in such a positive light.

Food Drive

Hartford is holding a Food Drive to help the hungry and homeless. The food that is collected will be donated to the Salvation Army and the Milwaukee Rescue Mission. Please send canned or boxed items to school by November 30th for the Food Drive. Suggested items include:

- Canned vegetables
- Baby formula
- Rice
- Pasta
- Canned fruit
- Beans
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Stuffing
- Cereal and oatmeal
- Other canned goods (Spaghetios, tuna)

If you have any questions about the Food Drive, contact school social worker Ms. Foulard (906-4798) or middle school teacher Ms. Lane (906-4761).

PSO Meetings

Jan. 7

Feb. 11

Mar. 4

Apr. 15

May 13

Preventing the Flu

Remember, we are still in the heart of flu season. The flu is very easy to spread by touching, coughing, and sneezing. A person can spread the flu a day before they show symptoms and for more than a week after becoming ill.

- Be alert for flu symptoms, which include fever, body aches, chills, fatigue, sore throat, runny or stuff nose, cough, and often vomiting and diarrhea.
- Stay home if you have flu symptoms! Staying home 7 days after symptoms started is best, but do not go to work or school at least 24 hours after the fever has stopped without the use of medication.
- Contact the doctor if flu symptoms are severe or worsening.
- Wash your hands frequently.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or upper sleeve.
- Do not share food or drink with others.

Winter is on its Way

Though the weather this November has been relatively mild, the bitter cold and snow of a Wisconsin winter is definitely around the corner. Please plan for the weather. Make sure to dress your children assuming they will have outdoor recess each day — warm jackets, hats, mittens, and boots. Be sure to check the lost and found area outside of the auditorium for any items that get misplaced.

If you are unsure about whether or not there will be school, be sure to tune in to the radio, watch TV, or go to the MPS website to see if school is cancelled. Do not assume there is no school unless there is official word that MPS has cancelled its classes.

November PSO Financial Report

The PSO reported at its October meeting that it had \$2,966.93 in the bank. We spent \$720.42 for pumpkins and decorations for Pumpkin Night and received \$173.97 in donations that night to offset the costs. We deposited \$11,671.50 so far from the Mr. Z's fundraiser and refunded \$25.00 from an overpayment. The PSO paid out \$198.00 for buses for the middle schoolers to attend Indian Summer, \$209.52 to pay for Hurrahs and other items for the PBIS implementation, and \$20.00 for babysitting at the October meeting. The balance at November 12th is \$13,639.46. We expect to pay about \$7,000 for the Mr. Z's items, but the final invoice will not be confirmed until after delivery day. We approved spending \$395.04 for uniforms for the basketball teams and \$77.90 for T-shirts for the robotics team, though parents will be requested to purchase them if they can afford to do so.

Saturdays with Santa

Looking for family activities this December? For the seventh year, The Shops of Grand Avenue is hosting Saturdays with Santa. Scheduled between noon and 2:00 in the Food Court on Dec. 5th, 12th, and 19th, the weekly event features an opportunity to make a craft and enjoy an interactive show with the staff from Radio Disney. For more information, go to www.GrandAvenueShops.com.



Holiday Lights

Milwaukee's Holiday Lights Festival officially begins on Thursday, November 19th. After picking up your Mr. Z's order at school, head to Pere Marquette Park on 3rd and State Street. There will be a Family Fashion Pre-Show at 5:30 followed by a Holiday Variety Show at 6:00 pm. There will be live music, free hot cocoa, coffee and cookies. The mayor will flip the switch to turn on the holiday lights downtown, and the Jingle Bus will offer rides around to the downtown parks that feature decorations for the holidays. If you are unable to attend the kick-off, know that you can visit the parks throughout December to view the lights and decorations. For more information, call 220-4700 or go to www.MilwaukeeHolidayLights.com.

Climate Survey

The annual MPS Climate Survey is still open! Each year MPS encourages parents to complete the survey in order to gather the opinions about each school from parents, students, and staff. The survey is available until 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 Harford 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. 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.

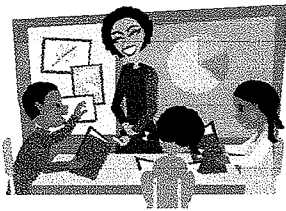
Diabetes Awareness Month

Did you know that 24 million children and adults in the U.S. live with diabetes? November is Diabetes Awareness Month. Though race has often been cited as a risk factor for diabetes, many people overlook the fact that obesity, lack of exercise, high blood pressure, and age are more important risk factors. Talk to your doctor to find out if you may be at risk for diabetes or may benefit from taking a risk assessment survey.

There are over 57 million Americans at risk for type 2 diabetes. Thankfully, studies have shown that changes in diet and activity levels can prevent the onset of diabetes. While some medications can delay the development of diabetes, just 30 minutes a day of moderate physical activity and a 5-10% reduction in body weight have been shown to produce a 58% reduction in diabetes. Go to www.diabetes.org for more information about diabetes.

UWM Trip

One of the benefits of Hartford's proximity to the university is that students can get an introduction to the university lifestyle at a young age. On Tuesday, November 17th, the 3rd graders of Hartford took a walking tour of the UWM campus. While learning about their immediate community, the students were also able to learn about the future opportunities that await them on college campuses.



Students as Teachers

Five students from Mr. Moses' 5th grade class went to UWM on October 26th. They were part of a panel discussion to help nursing students at UWM to understand developmental issues facing children in middle childhood. The 5th graders spoke to the students in Dr. Carol Ott's class, answering question about their lives and asking the UWM students about college. Thanks to all the students who participated and helped educate the future nurses of Milwaukee!!

Pumpkin Night a Success!

Pumpkin Night was again a great success this year!! Apologies go out to those who did not get a pumpkin — the record attendance created a crowded gym and shortage of pumpkins. Students, families, and staff came to Hartford on October 27th to decorate pumpkins, show off their costumes, play math games, and support our school. Congratulations to Danielle Hoffman, who came closest to guessing the weight of the giant pumpkin. Congratulations to Nikki Norman for coming the closest guessing the actual number of pieces of candy in the candy jar. Everyone who attended had a wonderful evening celebrating Fall together. Ms. Zaren and some of her 3rd grade students sold hot dogs to raise money for their annual field trip to Chicago. The middle schoolers sold taffy apples to raise money for their activities. The 5th Grade Girl Scout troop had a bake sale to raise money for their troop, and raised nearly \$150!

Pumpkin Night wouldn't be possible without the help of so many people. Most of all, thanks to Ms. Whyte for organizing the whole thing!! She put a lot of work into the evening and it showed. Thanks to all who donated money or purchased food — your financial support is always appreciated. Thanks to the PSO—they supported the evening in so many ways (including buying the pumpkins). Thank you to Mr. Kazmierski, Ms. Zaren, Ms. Hoffman, Ms. Foulard, Ms. Kazmierski, Ms. Bertrand-LaDuke, Ms. Bremer, Ms. Zeise, Ms. Balderas, Ms. Groser, Ms. Hagen, Ms. Lane, Ms. Ward, and Dr. Ellwood for giving their time to help the event run smoothly. Thanks to Stein's Garden and Gifts on N. Port Washington Road (just south of Mequon Road). Stein's provided the pumpkins at a very good price, cleaned them, and delivered them to the school. Please shop at Stein's as a way to thank them for their support of Hartford.

