

HURON Physical Arts CENTER, L.L.C.

September 2007

News from the Starlites Competitive Dance Teams

Huron Physical Arts Center Sponsors local DARE Dance Program

Huron Physical Arts Center is proud to be the sole sponsor of the new after-school DARE Dance program at Woodrow Wilson Elementary School in Port Huron. This program is the only one of its kind in the state of Michigan and was organized by our very own Starlites Coach, Christie Charron, in conjunction with her platform as Miss Lake Huron Shores through the Miss Michigan America organization.

DARE Dance is an after-school program for 4th and 5th grade students. It reinforces the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) curriculum currently within the elementary schools. This fun dance program will teach the basics of jazz and hip hop in a 10 week course, both in the fall and spring semesters. At the end of each session the students will perform at a school assembly for their parents, friends and fellow students.

The program originated in Maryland in 2000 and is currently in 70 schools in 17 major cities across the United States. We are very proud that Port Huron and HPAC's Starlites Dance program is among this impressive group of dance companies (see DARE.com and click on DARE Dance for more information. If you click on Dance Companies you will see Starlites and Port Huron in the lower right corner!)

This program has proven to be a positive alternative focus for children who may be at risk for drug abuse and violence. It provides kids somewhere to go after school in a supervised setting as opposed to being home alone without adult supervision. The instructor becomes a positive role model for the students while teaching them fun, expressive, healthy physical fitness. Our very own Head Starlites Dance Coach, Kelly Higgins along with Starlites Dance Coach Christie, will instruct the program.

It's a proven fact that dance in general teaches children to focus as well as teaching the art of memorization and organizational skills. It develops coordination, stimulates the mind and body through the process of repetition and gives them a sense of belonging. The end result is an elevation of self-confidence and self-esteem. And what a fun way to learn these life-long skills!

Here at HPAC, Christie has also organized a "DARE to Share" program which asks anyone who has old dance shoes of any type, to donate them to us so we can provide the DARE students the proper footwear for the program.

We hope that our efforts in bringing this worthwhile program to Port Huron will stimulate other community service groups to become financially vested in this DARE Dance program. As a result, other schools within our area will have the opportunity to participate in the DARE Dance program at their school as well.

Starlites add a second Senior High Dance Team

The Starlites competitive dance team has grown now to 8 competitive dance teams! New to the program is a 12-member Senior High Small team that will compete in the pom, jazz and lyrical categories. This team is in addition to our existing 19-member Senior High Large team. We wish our new Senior team the best of luck!

Congratulations Starlite of the Month

Ashton Hearn

Starlites Senior

Keep up the good work!