

The Castle Caller

A Student Newspaper

HAZLETON ELEMENTARY MIDDLE SCHOOL



December 2009
Holiday Edition

Reading Teacher Raises Support for Animal Shelter

by Maria Magabo and Elizabeth Grego

Mrs. Bott seems like an ordinary elementary school teacher. She grew up in Hazleton, was married here, and has two beautiful Golden Retrievers named Marley and Madison. However, her love for animals is truly exceptional. Ever since this reading teacher was a kid, she has cherished the joy of taking care of animals. Now as an adult she's passing it on to her students.

Every year, she collects items for the Hazleton Animal Shelter. The type of things needed



would be extremely basic and familiar for anyone that has a pet. Although fundamental to us, the Hazleton Animal Shelter is in need of them. According to their website, their wish list includes things such as cat litter,

treats, toys, leashes, and collars. However, a monetary donation will also be accepted.

According to Mrs. Bott, this collection has sparked a love for animals and a desire to help them in her students.

Mrs. Bott teaches her students that animals are hard to care for, but it's extremely rewarding.

Since the holidays are here, brighten a homeless dog or stray cat's life today? Every donation helps, even if it's something simple like a small can of cat food. The shelter is thrilled and thankful for every donation. Not only will you help the animals, you'll help the shelter's employees.

"We need to do our part in taking care of all creatures, big and small," said Mrs. Bott.

S-P-E-L-L-I-N-G B-E-E

by Naomi Barreto and Leandris Reyes*

Hazleton Elementary Middle School held the annual Spelling Bee on November 19, 2009. Many students participated at both the elementary and middle school level.



From left, McPherson, Orjeda, and McGeehan. Cundro is missing from the photo.

dro and McPherson said they did not study at all.

Orjeda, McPherson and Cundro admitted to being nervous, while McGeehan said she wasn't really nervous at all.

All four winners said they will be studying every day to prepare for the district spelling bee.

When asked if they will win at the district bee, McPherson and Cundro said no, while McGeehan said maybe and Orjeda said he hopes to win.

Anthony Cundro, 7th grade, won first place and Rachael McPherson, 8th grade, won second place. The sixth grade winners were Isaac Orjeda, who came in first, and Mackenzie McGeehan, who followed in sec-

ond place. The next step for these winners will be the district spelling competition, which will be held on January 19th, 2010, at 6:30p.m. The competition will take place at West Hazleton Middle School. Orjeda and McGee-

han both said they were never in a spelling bee before, while Cundro and McPherson had been in past spelling bees.

As far as studying goes, Orjeda and McGeehan said they were studying since they were given the word books, but Cun-

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

News	1
Sports	2
Features	3
Events	4
Clubs	5
Staff	5

Boy's Basketball Starts Up

By Kevin Harry



Coach Pollock

The 2009-2010 Mountaineer basketball team has been announced. Players for the 7th grade team are: Peter Lombardo, Nick Labulish, Elio Osorio, Max Valerio, Matt Michelin, David Torres, Mike Pollock, Matt Galarza, Ernesto Quinones, Harley Castro, and Chauncey Hazel. Their coach is Mr. Leshko.

The 8th grade team consists of: Landon Leshko, Darbby Fajardo, Steven Anziani, David Hernandez, Jalius Ward, Luke DeAndrea, Noah Held, Chris DeSpirito, Chris Aquino, and A.J. Gasser. Mr. Pollock coaches the 8th grade team.

When I asked some of the players about how they are getting ready for the season, they said they are doing a lot of practice at home. One player said he practices with his brother at home and always runs at the track.

The following is a brief interview with the coaches:

How long have you been coaching?

Mr. Leshko: Eight years.

Mr. Pollock: Eight years.

What made you get into coaching?

Mr. Leshko: I played ball when I was in school and I still like the sport.

Mr. Pollock: I played sports all my life and I still feel competitive. I want to keep doing them.

How are you preparing your team for the season?

Mr. Leshko: I am practicing

them hard and I am making them learn their role on the team. I am also getting them into shape and making them realize that they have school responsibilities.

Mr. Pollock: I am making sure they know the fundamentals of the game and teaching new plays.

The 2009-2010 boys' basketball games begin Friday, Dec. 11 with an away game at Heights-Terrace School.

Mountaineer Boy's Basketball Schedule

December 11 - Heights T.

December 14 - Holy Family

December 17 - West Hazleton

December 21 - at MMI

December 22 - Valley

January 4 - Freeland

January 7 - at Drums

January 11 - at West Hazleton

January 14 - at Holy Family

January 20 - MMI

January 25 - Heights Terrace

January 28 - at Freeland

February 1 - at Valley

February 4 - West Hazleton

February 8 - at Heights

February 11 - Drums

February 17 - at Holy Family

Playoff games will be announced at a later date.

Lady Mounts Basketball By Miss Leonard

We would like to give a big hand to the Lady Mounts basketball teams, who had a tremendous season this year.

The 8th grade team, coached by Mrs. James, ended their season with 14 wins and 3 losses. They also entered playoffs and had the opportunity to play at the Hazleton Area High School gym.

Unfortunately the Mounts lost to Drums in playoffs, but it wasn't without a great effort by all involved. The girls have made a name for Hazleton Middle School basketball and put themselves on the map as a team to beat.

The 2009-2010 7th and 8th grade team members included:

#45 Katlyn Berry

#20 Paula Rodriguez

#21 Alondra Fernandez

#23 Becky Marchetti

#51 Jolene Browdy

#12 Krysta Decker

#15 Angela Marchetti

#13 Maria Scatton

#24 Sam Varela

#11 Mikaela Browdy

#10 Julian Mejia

#32 Lucely Rojas

#54 Gaby Vito

#35 Briannie Silva

All I Want For Christmas Is...

by Jessica Turitto

Christmas is just around the corner. Everyone loves the holiday spirit and spending time with the family, but we all know exactly what we look forward to the most...PRESENTS!

This year we have a Christmas wish list from HEMS. Here are what some of the students and teachers want for Christmas this year:

Nicole Gionta wants a cell phone and a camera.

Bryan Frent would like two hamburgers.

Alex Duran wants a new cell phone.

Brandon McGinnis wants a professional skateboard.

Anthony Cundro is hoping for a mountain bike.

Yamilex Rodriguez is asking for a pony! (Good luck with that.)

Jaicha Valerio wants a digi-



tal camera, a new phone, more sneakers...and a monkey.

Anthony Perno would like skate wheels.

Albert Arias is hoping for Nike boots.

Hernan Aquino wants a gum in his stocking.

Kaitlyn Marocchini would like clothes, a kitten and to move.

Teachers also have wishes for Christmas morning just like the kids do. Below is what some of the faculty are hoping to see Christmas morning under the tree.

Civics teacher **Mrs. Force** wants a mini laptop and anything that's Philadelphia Eagles. Also for her family to be happy and healthy.

Mr. Whitley, 7th grade math, hopes to get an i-pod nano in red with a built in camera.

Science teacher **Mrs. Ritter** wants Rosetta Stone.

Cheerleading coach **Miss Leonard** would like peace and money!

Mr. Hearne, 7th grade Language Arts, would like peace and quiet and for his son to go to sleep.

And what I, **Jessica Turitto**, want for Christmas is "The Perks of Being a Wallflower" by Stephen Chubasky.

Are You On the Naughty or Nice List?

by Ashley Oster, Kelsey Whittaker and Michael Whittaker*



At HEMS we like to celebrate the holidays. The next holiday that is coming up is Christmas. Kelsey Whittaker, Michael Whittaker, and Ashley Oster decided to ask the students and teachers of HEMS if

they were naughty or nice this year.

4th Grade:

Carlos Cruz said he has been nice to everyone. **Brittany Kois** thinks she was both because she helps her mother out, but she fights with her sister. **Paul Hernandez** said he was nice this year, because he obeys his parents. **Brittany Baker** said she has been very nice this Christmas because that is the kind of person she is.

5th Grade:

Rebecca Scatton said she's been naughty because she is mean to her sisters. **Dominique DeSpirito** said she has been naughty because she picks on her brother. **Selena Sanchez** thinks she's been naughty because she doesn't do her homework. **Joelle Marchese** said she's been real nice because she listens to the folks. **Dylan Mehl** said he has been nice

because he is nice to his brother.

Destiny Nika thinks she has been nice, because she listens to what people have to say.

6th Grade:

Angelina Perez said she's been nice because she helps people out with problems. **Alvin Contreas** thinks he has been nice this year because he does his school work and homework. **Jeremy Rivera** says he was naughty to random people. **Alanna Supon** thinks she's been nice because she gave a dog she found back to its owner. **Maria Herning** said she was nice because she helps out with things around the house. **Matthew Hand** says he has been nice because he studies for his tests. **Gema Bayas** says she was nice because she helps in chorus. **Marbel Stojker** says she was nice because she helps her dad around the house.

Editors

Katlyn Berry
Elizabeth Grego
Kevin Harry
Beth Michalochick
Jessica Turitto

Reporters

Hernan Aquiano
Katlyn Berry
Elizabeth Grego
Kevin Harry
Maria Magabo
Lesley Munoz
Ashley Oster

Javieria Rodriguez
Melanie Sanchez
Jessica Turitto
Kelsey Whittaker

Editor-in-Chief

Miss Leonard

*Denotes Miss
Leonard assisted
with article.

Naughty or Nice cont.

by Ashley Oster, Kelsey Whittaker and Michael Whittaker*

Kalieb Ingersoll said he was naughty because he doesn't do his homework.

7th Grade:

Harley Castro said he has been naughty because he knocked down his Christmas tree. **Kandence Roman** says she she's been naughty because she doesn't listen. Lastly, **Terry Bryan** said she has been both naughty and nice because she is nice to her friends, but is naughty to her brothers and sisters.

8th Grade:

Maryvic Perez says she was nice for Christmas because she was nice and caring to everyone. **Ashley Oster** says she was nice to the students at school.

HEMS Teachers:

Mrs. Rodgers said, "I'm on the nice list because I had to be extra special good this year to set a good example for my new baby girl Cassidy."

Mr. Shifano says he is on the nice list because he is very nice to people.

Miss O'Brien says she's been nice and naughty, because she wasn't nice to her son but she helps people and animals.

Mr. Poluka said he's nice because he volunteered to stay after school doing bus duty so his colleagues can leave at 3:40.

Mr. Kassick said he is on the nice list because "I've been good for goodness sake."

Mrs. James said she's on the nice list because she shared candy canes with her students for Christmas.

Mrs. Karlick said, "The nice list because I try to be a good example for my students and my own children."

Mr. Whitley is on the naughty list. He said, "I'm bad, so bad, real bad...breath and all."

Mrs. Nemeth said her desire to please everyone all the time puts her on the nice list.

Mr. Hearne replied, "Naughty, because I secretly like to give homework."

Mr. Williams said, "I'm on the list that gets coal!"

Mrs. Howey, "Nice. I bribe Santa with cookies!"

Mr. Sedon said, "NAUGHTY...enough said!"

Classroom Corner by Hernon Aquino

In Mrs. Force's civics class we did a rap project. The rap had to be about politics. We formed groups of four. Every group put a lot of effort into this particular project. Three groups even made their own video. These students were Elizabeth Michalochick, Kalie Kontasky, and Medeline Ausisane. The second group was Brandon McGinnis, Timmy Price, and Anthony Cundro. The last group was Hernan Aquino, Albert Arias and Jesus.

Alex Duran and Arjenys also interviewed the person behind the amazing project, Mrs. Force. She said "I saw a lot of kids putting hard work into the project." She said putting the videos together wasn't hard except that were in different formats.

Finally she commented that she will have another project like this because the students had a lot of fun.



*"Merry Christmas
and*

Happy New Year"

From the editors of The Castle Caller