

# The Castle Caller



FREE

A Student Newspaper

Winter Edition 2024

## Winter Break!

What is the best thing(s) a person could do? Reporter: Diana Salcedo

Some eighth graders shared their thoughts on this topic. Liam Y. says, unexpectedly, the best thing a person could do is like the movie "The Lorax." He also says they must be nice. Leo Severino stated, "The best thing people could do is not to judge others, because you never know what they're going through," and I completely agree! I'm sure you've heard of the next person! Joriel Bons said: "picking up trash and helping another person." The seventh-grade students also shared their opinions. Luis stated: "eat." Yeah, just "eat." J.L. declares, "People should donate to the poor." J.B. exclaims: "When people help the environment." M.B. articulates their opinion by stating: "The best thing a person can do is support other people." Lastly, M.P. says: "When people help stray animals on the street!" The sixth graders seem to think a LOT alike! Delilah Owens states: "The best thing people can do is give homeless veterans a place to stay and necessary resources." Jeico Osorio chimes in by stating: "People helping homeless shelters," as well as, "giving food to the poor." Nathan Caba also stated: "Giving homeless people money, shelter and jobs." Nathan Caba thought about the animals as well. He stated: "protecting stray by giving them shelter." Yanelis Matos also added "giving homeless food." Yanelis agrees with Luis Pachero that cleaning beaches to protect animals from being hurt is important and a good thing people can do! On top of that, Luis also commented, "cleaning parks," and donating to "Make a Wish" is a good thing a person could do! Bianca Rodriguez Pena gave a good response as well, stating that having manners and respect for others is something that people can do that is positive. There are some answers that people wanted to share but wished to be anonymous. One reply was: "start a charity for homeless," followed by, "create a lemonade stand and donate the money to charity," "help people with their projects," and, "help your parents or somebody special to you with chores or something they can't do." These are great ideas! Two lovely teachers agreed to be in the newspaper as well! Ms. Dudeck says to compliment others, and Mrs. Ciampi says to be honest or genuine.

Editor here would like to share a story that came to mind when reading Mrs. Ciampi comment. This story is from Aesop's Fables called "MERCURY AND THE WOODMAN". "An honest, hard-working woodman was felling a tree on the bank of a deep river. In some way his hand slipped and his ax fell into the water immediately sank to the bottom. Being a poor man who could ill afford to lose the tool by which he earned his livelihood he sat down and lamented his loss most bitterly. But Mercury, whose river it was, suddenly appeared on the scene. When he had learned of the woodman's misfortune, he offered to do what he could to help. Diving into the deep, swift-flowing stream, he brought up an ax made of solid gold. "Could this be yours?" he asked. "alas, I wish it were," replied the woodman sadly. Again Mercury dived into the ice-cold water and this time brought up an ax made of solid silver. But again the woodman shook his head and denied that the tool belonged to him. Mercury dived a third time and produced the identical ax which the man had lost. Naturally the owner was delighted to see his trusty ax once more, and so was Mercury. "You are an honest and a good man," said the messenger of the gods. "I want you to take the golden and the silver ax as a reward for telling the truth." Thanking his benefactor, the woodman ran home to tell his wife and his good fortune. As the story spread, one of the neighbors rushed down to the same spot on the riverbank, threw his ax into the water, and began to moan and grieve over his loss. Just as before, Mercury appeared, and learned what had occurred, dived into the water and fetched up a golden ax. "Is this the ax you lost, my friend?" he asked. "Yes, yes, that's it," lied the man, greedily reaching for the golden ax in Mercury's hand. But just as he was about to grasp the ax of gold, Mercury said: "Not so fast, sir. You are lying and to punish you for not being truthful, I am not only denying you this but I am leaving your own ax at the bottom of the river." "Moral of the story is: HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY." Publisher: Grosset & Dunlap, copyright 1947.

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# Winter Break! Favorite Gifts

What was your favorite gift and why?

Reporter: Rin Lopez

The individuals are students of different grade levels as well as adults. Luis stated with a very contemptuous attitude: "Money because it's money? Duh." S.G. is supper grateful for her gift: "My older sister, because she's my best friend!" Nayla stated in Spanish: "Esta Navidad me gregalaron una guitarra. Toco mucho el instrument y me encanta: (English: This Christmas I got a guitar. I play the instrument a lot and I love it.)" Pear got an Iphone and now she can take pictures of memorable occasions. Gabriel stated: "An oculus because I've always wanted one and I finally have it." Melenie is happy to get the Nintendo switch because they can play games and watch YouTube videos on it too. Elvis' favorite gift was a power ranger dino fury because it can transform into a robot! E.P. got a basket that was full of basketball stuff and money. E.P. stated: "When I got that gift basket it made me want to get into basketball more and I still have the basketball. I use it for motivation." Ian Lara replied: "My PS4 got me into what I am into today. Ever since I got it, it changed me."

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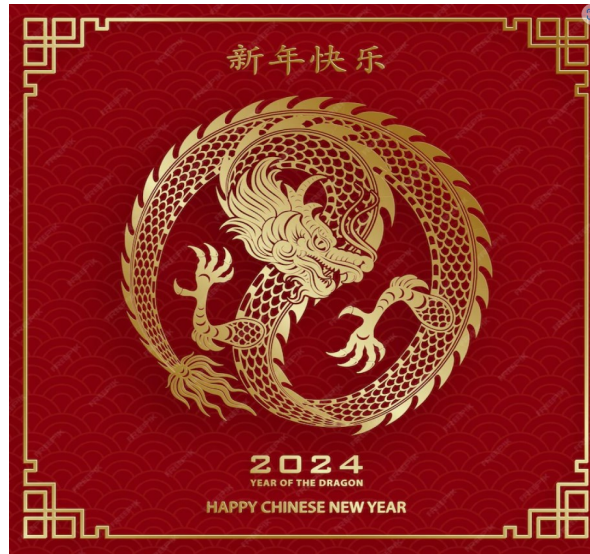


Image was retrieved from: <https://www.roadtovr.com/oculus-quest-2-review-better-in-almost-every-way/2/>

Photo by Road to VR



Picture taken by Marszalek

It was my first game console and it got me into gaming, and I've been obsessed ever since." Mrs. Kozlek very sweetly replied: "My job! I'm so blessed to teach such wonderful students." Lindsay was so excited to share that she got football tickets to watch her favorite team! Mrs. Marszalek, the absolute coolest teacher, was emotional when she said a Walkman. "My brother gave it to me for Christmas one year and 40 years later, I still have it." R. L. got a promise ring from someone very special to them. Mrs. Planutis favorite gift was given to her by her sister. Her sister made Mrs. Planutis some homemade Ted Lasso biscuits and gave her a book called "The Art of Nothing" by Patrick McDonnell. Mrs. Sanchez received the gift of salvation which has made a big difference in her life, and it was for the better. Shelly became very sentimental when she stated, "My grandmother left me antique bakeware, but it was missing pieces. My husband and kids found the missing pieces and inside was a handwritten recipe book!" Miss. Alberto, with sparkles in her eyes, said she got an Apple watch from her dad. Now her two-year-old son as one too!



# What's Happening?

## Door Décor Winners

1st Place

### "Bruno's Farm Fresh Trees"

for category 3rd and 4th grade.

- Mrs. Bruno

Pictures below  
were taken by  
Ricardo Sanchez



1st Place

### "Sanfelice Navidad"

for category 5th and 6th grade.

- Ms. Sanfelice



1st Place

### "Santa Toy Shop"

for category 7th and 8th grade.

- Ms. Kozlek





# What's Happening?

## Classroom Ornament Winners

## 1st Place

## “Reindeer”

**for category 3rd and 4th grade.**

**- Ms. Kile**



Pictures taken  
by  
Rin Lopez

# 1st Place

## “Ginger Bread House”

**for category 7th and 8th grade.**

**- Ms. Alberto**

## 1st Place

## “Sanfelice Navidad”

**for category 5th and 6th grade.**

**- Ms. Sanfelice**



# Winter Wonderland

What was your favorite part(s) about the winter dance? Reporter: Ricardo Sanchez

On December 13, 2023, HEMS had a middle school dance. The people answered the question: "What was your favorite part(s) about the winter dance?"

What a shocker the food was a lot of people's favorite part of the dance. Instead of the Macarena they did the muncharana. Like S.H. "My favorite part of the dance was the food." looks like Christopher Jrizorry agrees "My favorite part was the cookies and pizza." Looks like Braylin Herrera has something to say about the food and said: "I like how it did not taste like school food... and the lights were way to bright should have turned them off." What is this? Maria has something to say about the food too "It was the food; the food was the best part." Looks like L.Y. really enjoyed the food "My favorite part was the food. The pizza was SCRUMDIDDLEYUMPTIOUS." People would not go to a dance just to eat or dance they would do both like these two. Loretta Sociano and Crisleidy Sanchez said: "The food and the music." Other people agree to; like Wildalys Castro "My favorite part was when we all danced to the cha-cha slide, and the food." Some people like the music more than the food though like Mariel Cespedes, Mara, and Nasha Camila Pimentel Delacruz stated: "My favorite part was the music." Anonymous person stated: "My favorite part was when everyone danced to Wobble Baby." Some people just loved to show their vibe and see other people's vibe. Rin contributed her opinion: "My favorite part was how I was able to dance and show how crazy I am." There is one person who wish to be anonymous but had something to say: "My favorite part about the dance overall was probably how energetic everyone was and being able to dance with everyone and not be embarrassed. Also, I liked the food too." Looks like Ronal agrees with the secret friend: "My favorite part was how energetic and enthusiastic it was." Some people liked being there with their friends like Brain Kaprat stated: "My favorite part was enjoying the time with my friends." Alexander Lange would like to add on to that "My favorite part about the dance was the people dancing and the food. If you went you can enjoy food while having fun with friends." Lastly a response from Jaidyn Jones "My favorite part of the dance was going up and asking people for their favorite songs for my newspaper article. I also liked dancing to Never Have I Ever."



Student Council jobs was tasked with helping to put together a dance. 'What is your opinion on the new student council?' Reporter: Makaila Lora

The 7th graders had some thoughts on the topic. Loretta Soriana stated: "I personally think that the people who got in the student council are responsible and respectful." Jadel Castillo stated excitedly: "I'm glad they picked my friends as student council." The 8th graders also had opportunities to express their opinions. Celine Betanezs and Bianka Santana agree but also believes this: "They're smart people and they are going to do good for our school." Alejandra Martinez stated: "I think they deserved to be a part of the student council." Leonardo Mejia expressed his opinion: "The student council are very cool people."

# CHRISTMAS CONCERT

With the holiday season upon us, one way a school celebrates is by putting on a concert!



## *The Castle Caller Staff*

### **Student Reporters:**

Diana Salcedo, Rin Lopez, Ricardo Sanchez, and Mikaila Lora

### **Photographers:**

HEMS STAFF/ Rin Lopez, Ricardo Sanchez and Ms. Marszalek

**Editor-in-Chief/Adviser:** Ms. Marszalek