

The Castle Caller

After 4 Years, Students vs. Faculty B-ball Returns

By Vivien Ruiz
Senior Reporter



On May 2, 2013, the Students vs. Faculty Basketball Game fundraiser returned. This fundraiser hasn't been held since 2009 and its return was a huge success for the school.

The faculty won in 2009 earning bragging rights for the last four years, but that didn't stop the students from this year's 8th grade boys' and girls' Mountaineer basketball teams from taking on the challenge. Both the students and faculty were confident they were going to win. Faculty members, like Mr. Hearne and Mrs. Force, played. Even our own Vice-Principal Mr. DeNoia participated in the game!

Before the game we spoke with Mr. Flaherty, Mrs. Dudeck, Mr. Williams, Mr. Shafer and Mrs. Force, who were going to be playing to find out how they were feeling leading up to the night.

Q: Are you worried about playing against the students?

Flaherty: No, not at all.

Dudeck: (Laughed)

Williams: Am I worried? Absolutely not!

Shafer: No, I think it will be a lot of fun.

Force: No worries-we got this!

Q: Do you have any experience playing basketball?

Flaherty: I played basketball in high school.

Dudeck: I taught my daughter everything she knows about basketball. (Laughs)



(Above) Faculty members challenge the 8th grade boys' and girls' basketball team members during a fundraising event sponsored by the PTA at The Castle on May 2, 2013.

Williams: Yeah, I played for 3 years in high school.

Shafer: Not a lot, but I'm not worried.

Force: I played 4th-10th grade.

Q: What do you think is your biggest challenge?

Flaherty: Controlling the tempo of the game.

Dudeck: Mrs. Force.

Williams: There is no challenge. They're going down!

Shafer: Not being in shape. Trying to keep up with the students.

Force: Getting passed 'Shrek' and not being blocked by 'Shrek'.

Q: Who do you think is go-

ing to win?

Flaherty: The teachers obviously.

Dudeck: The teachers.

Williams: Is that seriously a question?

Shafer: Of course the teachers.

Force: The teachers.

Obviously the teachers were very confident about winning, but let's find out how the students felt before the big game.

Q: The teachers won past games. Are you worried?

Walper: No.

DeSpirito: No, not really.

Pizarro: No, not at all.

Q: What do you think will be your biggest challenge?

Walper: ...rebounds.

DeSpirito:

Mrs. Robbins, because of her height.

Pizarro: Trying to keep up with 'Pocahontas.'

In the end, the students won the girls' game and the teachers won the boys' game. Here's what teachers and students had to say after the games were over.

Q: How did you feel when you were playing out in the court?

Dudeck: I was ready for action!

Hearne: Confident, but tired.

Force: I felt great, like a mini Michael Jordan.

Pizarro: I felt nervous and excited.

Q: Were you surprised that you won?

Hearne: No, we played as a team.

Q: Were you surprised that you lost?

Dudeck: I was shocked.

Force: I thought it would be closer. We got tired by the 2nd half. They were just lucky, that we didn't have Mrs. Robbins and Mrs. Planutis. There is always next year!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

News	1
Snapshot	2
Elementary News	3
Features	4
Corner Chat	5
Letter from Editor	6

SNAPSHOT

Highlights from Student vs. Faculty B-ball Game May 2, 2013



ELEMENTARY NEWS

Sixth Graders Moving Up

By Leiry Rumaldo and Gabriella Tomax
Junior Reporters

It's almost the end of the year! It's scary, but exciting to think about changes next year. We talked to sixth graders to see how they feel about moving on to middle school. Some want to join new clubs students are excited, while others are a little intimidated.

Dilauri Hernandez said she feels, "a balance between scared and excited." She's looking forward to the activities she wants to do. She wants to try out for cheerleading, join drama club and student council.

Francisco Alba said he feels nervous about moving on. He wants to join art club.

Alba doesn't know what to expect for seventh grade, but hopes to get a nice teacher.

Chernis Reyes said she feels good, but is really scared about next year. She wants to be with her friends and hopes to join the cheerleading squad.

Winton Nunez said he's excited, but a little scared. He hopes to join the basketball team and wants to be a part of the drama club. He thinks there will be new faces in middle school and believes it will be different from sixth grade.

Acacia Bermudez said, "I'm a little nervous, but excited." Bermudez is thinking about joining art club and

hopes to be with friends. She believes seventh grade will be a lot harder than sixth.

Isabel Colon is pretty excited about seventh grade, but thinks it will be harder.

Alex White and Xac Hudock both have the same opinion. White is excited and happy to move on. He hopes to join drama club and art club. Hudock said, "I feel really good and I'm looking forward." He hopes to join wrestling, chorus, and maybe be part of the basketball team.

Karina Lorenzo feels more nervous than excited about seventh grade. She wants to join the basketball

team, the cheerleading squad, and community service.

Julio Rumaldo said, "I'm excited to go to the other side of school and meet all the new teachers, but I'm kind of sad because I'll miss the teachers I used to have." Rumaldo hopes to join the drama club, art club, and the basketball team. Rumaldo thinks seventh grade will be different from sixth. He hopes to get Mrs. Force and Mr. Hearne as teachers next year.

We hope the rest of sixth grade is as excited to move. We say good-bye to old faces in eighth grade, but say hello to new faces in seventh.

Cub Scouts Roar into Bobcats

By Rebecca Schell
Senior Reporter

Fourteen cub scouts were inducted as Bobcats on Monday, April 8th in the Alice C. Wiltsie Performing Arts Center, at The Castle. The cub scouts program in our schools is part of a pilot program in the district. West Hazleton Elementary/Middle School, Heights Terrace Elementary/Middle School, and Hazleton Elementary/Middle School are participating.



The cub scout leaders for the program in our school are Mr. Jadush and Mr. Silva. The students who participated in the program are Michael Arroyo, Anthony Arroyo, Adrian Figueroa, Wilington Zoquier, Ignacio

ueroa, Zion Bennett, Bryan Pena, Mosian Bennett, Brantley Santana, Jeffrey Mejia, and George Gad.

In order to be inducted as a Bobcat, these cub

club leaders and guiders, they learned the cub scout sign, salute, handshake, meaning of webelos, and the promise and law of the pack.



At their initiation, they had their faces painted by team leaders and lit candles, which all symbolized something in their studies. Congratulations to all the Bobcats

scouts needed to learn several things. With the help of their Aleklas, or

on their awesome achievement! Keep on climbing, Bobcats!

FEATURES

What Do Teachers Do in the Summer?

By Yasmina Dzairi and Yuliana Martinez
Junior Reporters*

It's almost the end of the school year and vacation is on everyone's mind. Many students and teachers are planning their vacations for the summer. Some aren't going anywhere special and plan to stay at home.

Mrs. Rodgers, 8th grade math, is one of them. She plans to work at the YM/YWCA and Camp Discovery. There she will spend her days doing crafts and taking care of kids on field trips.

When we asked **Mr.**

Hudock, 8th grade science, he said that he plans to spend the summer

golfing. He especially can't wait to beat Mr. Schifano at golf.

Others will be traveling outside of the area. **Mrs. Bruno** said she will be going to Tampa with her son, while **Mrs.**



Blakeslee, middle school language arts, will be traveling with her daughter's softball

team.

Mr. and Mrs. O'Donnell, fourth and fifth grade, respectively, will be traveling to Ireland. They plan to do a lot of sightseeing and buy lots of momentos!

Mrs. O'Donnell will also be very busy getting the new cheerleading squad ready for the upcoming school year by practicing twice a week and taking the girls to camp!

Mr. Williams, fifth grade, plans to relax and enjoy time with his kids.

While some people will be staying home, it is fun to hear about the different places that others will go. We wish them safe travel and a happy summer to all.

Best Memories of this Year

By Alexandra Miglas and Rebecca Schell
Junior and Senior Reporters

Did you have a favorite moment in the 2012/2013 school year? After interviewing several 7th and 8th grade students, and a teacher or two, we came up with a huge variety of favorite moments.

Nancy Bucci and **Kaitlyn Verbitsky**, both 7th, liked making new friends.

Jarielys Castillo and **Isis Torres**, both 8th, said that they liked being on the basketball team.

Jerry Gasser, 8th, said that he liked all of the sports seasons.

Maria Torres, 8th, loved the pep rally for the boys' basketball team, and especially being a part of the cheerleading squad!

Karleigh Mizenko and **Kendyl Baker**, both 8th, loved the dances, and how entertaining they were.

Joshua Walper, 8th, liked joking around with Mr. Schifano all year, and being on the basketball team.

Joelle Marchese, 8th, liked the kickoff to stop bullying in our school and how all the kids got together to release balloons in the beginning of the year.

Ciara Bannon, 8th, said the first day of school was best. She loved coming back to all her friends.

Theresa Schreffler and **Margaret Fulton**, both 8th, said the entire school year was awesome! They can't wait

until next year!

Anthony Martoccio, 8th, along with 6th grade teacher **Mr. Shafer**, said the end of the year will be the best!

Mrs. O'Donnell, 5th grade, really enjoyed the balloon release at the anti-bullying program kick-off and was extremely impressed her cheerleaders accomplished four liberties and two scorpions for the first time ever!

Mr. Schifano, 8th grade teacher, couldn't even pick a favorite moment because he had so many!

Mrs. Karlick, sixth grade, said her favorite moment was heckling Mr. Williams at the Student vs. Faculty Basketball Game.

This reporter, **Alexandra Miglas**, feels it's hard to choose between being on the *Castle Caller* team, as it gave me the experience to interact with new people, and the bullying program, parade and balloon release.

This second reporter, **Rebecca Schell**, agrees the Anti-Bullying Kickoff Day was the best, but also loved being a *Castle Caller* and *Standard Speaker* reporter, learning clarinet, and spending my last year in the Castle with all my friends and teachers.

Good luck to the 8th graders moving to high school, the 6th graders moving to middle school, and to all other students in 2013/14 school year.

OPINION

MOUNTS' CORNER CHAT

By: Yulimar Abreu, Jenifer Arias, and Nisel Florentino
Junior Reporters*

Will you be vacationing in the USA this summer or traveling internationally to another country?

64% USA

36% International

*Based on a poll taken of over 100 HMS seventh and eighth grade students.

SUMMER VACATION! It's finally here and students at HEMS can't wait to get out of school. But it's hard to decide where to go because there are so many great places to visit and many cool things to see and do. Everyone is starting to make plans now.

This edition of Mounts' Corner Chat asks HEMS students if they will be vacationing within the United States this summer, or internationally, to countries outside of the United States.

Some of the students who are vacationing internationally plan to leave before school ends. This is due to the fact that vacations had been planned long ago, before we had so many snow days to make up.



We asked 50 seventh and 50 eighth graders if they were going to vacation in the US or internationally this summer. The majority of students are going on vacation in the US. Most plan on doing things like hanging out with friends and family right in our great state of Pennsylvania!

Eighth graders **Isaac Perez** and **Patricia Espinal** both said they weren't going anywhere this summer, but I'm sure they will have fun here in Hazleton!

Unlike Perez and Espinal, eighth grader **Jarielys Castillo** is going to Florida with her family and visiting some

amusement and water parks, like Disneyworld and Sea World.

Eighth grader **Joelle Marchese** said, "I'm going to New York in July to visit my family."

Cindy Gutierrez, eighth grade, has never been to Hawaii, but plans to go this summer.

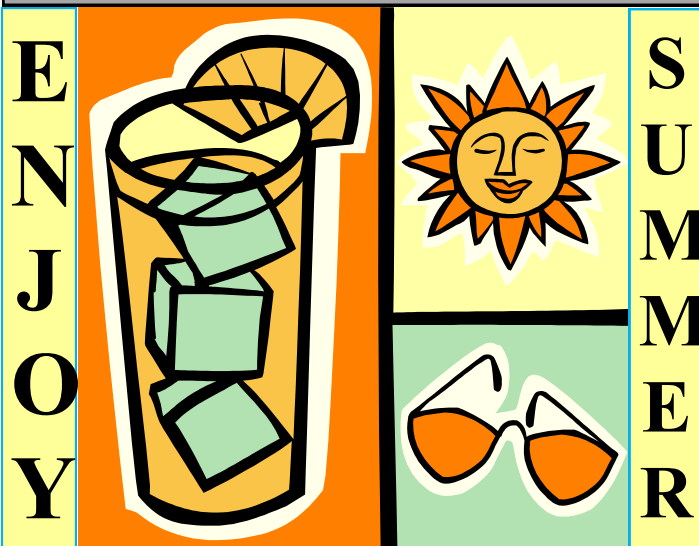
Seventh grader **Lorianny Rosso**, will be traveling internationally this summer. She is going to the Dominican Republic and she is going to have a great time!

A few students interviewed also planned to be traveling outside the US to the DR to visit family, however more students plan to stay right here in the good 'ole US of A!

Just remember to stay safe and have fun!

Cheerleading Tryouts Important Notice

Any student trying out for cheerleading will need a physical exam before tryouts on June 10-12th. A free sports clinic will be held at HAHS on Saturday, June 8th. Forms for the clinic are available in the nurse's office. Physicals must be done AFTER June 1st to count towards the 2013-14 school year. It is recommended students attend the sports clinic, or schedule an appointment with their doctor for the first week of June. Those who do not have their medical forms filled out will not be able to participate in cheerleading tryouts. See the nurse for additional information.



Hope you enjoyed our news this year. *The Castle Caller* is looking for new reporters next year! Have a fun and safe summer and see you in September!

Letter from the Editor: Thank You for Two Years of Service Standard Speaker Reporters

Every Monday, for the past two years, Ciara Bannon and Rebecca Schell collected the school news to be posted in the weekly, student news column that appears in the *Standard Speaker* every Tuesday. You may take it for granted that our school news will be there, but without our student reporters gathering the news, writing up the brief stories, and submitting it to the *Standard Speaker*, The Castle would not have a column.

I'd like to thank both girls for two successful years of service. Both were always very dedicat-

ed and professional to work with.

Since they will be moving on to high school, the student reporter job is available for next school year.

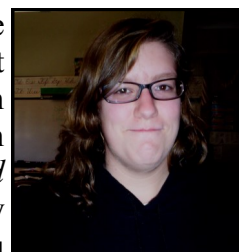
The job is open to students entering 7th and 8th grade. The responsibilities include: gathering news on the first day of every week, typing it up on your home

computer that night, and emailing the news to Mrs. O'Donnell the next day.

One benefit of the job is the *Standard Speaker* pays student reporters. Students will receive this payment in the mail at their homes. Interested students can sign up with Mrs. O'Donnell in September.



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