

The Castle Caller

A Student Newspaper

HAZLETON ELEMENTARY MIDDLE SCHOOL



October 2011
Fall Edition

Alice C. Wiltsie Performing Arts Center

By Natalie Gonzalez and Jennifer Guzman*

The following is an interview conducted with Ms. DeRose on the revitalized auditorium, also known as the Alice C. Wiltsie Performing Arts Center.

Q: How is the auditorium different from other auditoriums?

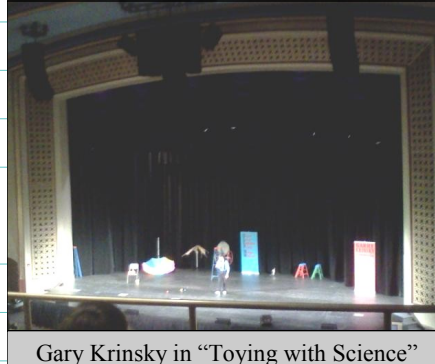
Ms. DeRose: This is a performing arts center for the community and it has state of the art equipment.

Q: How many seats are there?

Ms. DeRose: About 1100.

Q: Why did it take so long to be completed?

Ms. DeRose: Our school



Gary Krinsky in "Toying with Science"

had to raise funds to be able to come up with enough money. We had to get lots of donations.

Q: Why did they name the auditorium after Alice C. Wiltsie?

Ms. DeRose: Alice C. Wiltsie was an art teacher

when the Castle was a high school. Her family donated a lot of money to help rebuild the auditorium so they named it after her and dedicated it to her.

Q: Who are the hard-working men rebuilding the auditorium?

Ms. DeRose: I can't remember their names because there are so many of them, but the committee hired sub-contractors to work.

Q: When did they actually start rebuilding the auditorium?

Ms. DeRose: They started 5 years ago.

The first performance was held on October 6th called "Toying with Science" starring Gary Krinsky. The first performance for the public will be held on Sunday, October 23rd at 2pm. It is called "Raise the Curtain."

Entertainment will be provided by *There and Back Again* and it's hosted by WBRE's Andy Mehalshick. To purchase tickets online go to www.wiltsiecenter.org or visit Genetti's box office.

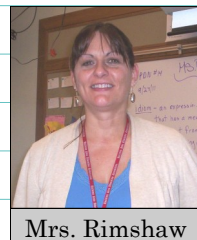
Bad Economy Affects HMS Teachers and Students

By Sneki Nikolic and Brie-Anne Wentz*

As you know, our economy has gone from bad to worse. If you don't know what the economy is, it's the production and distribution of money around the world. It affects everyone and right now things keep getting more and more expensive.

Seventh grade reading teacher, Mrs. Dudeck said, "I am now paying more in college tuition for my daughter."

Mrs. Force, 7th grade civics, said she had to disconnect her Direct TV and tries to stay home to have fun, instead of going out.



Mrs. Rimshaw

said she now has to work a second job to make up the difference.

The economy doesn't only affect adults. It affects everyone. Students at HMS also commented on how it has changed things in their family.

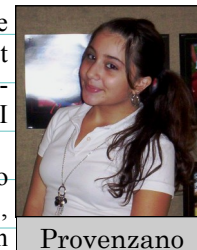
Jennifer Guzman, seventh grade, said, "My parents don't let me go any-

Mrs. where now because of gas money."

Rimshaw, Eighth grader Junior Arias said, "This economy has affected the amount of presents I will get."

Pedro Santos, eighth grade, said, "I can't get my cell phone now."

Eighth grader Danielle Provanzano said, "I don't have a car because this economy is horrible and gas is too expensive."



Provenzano

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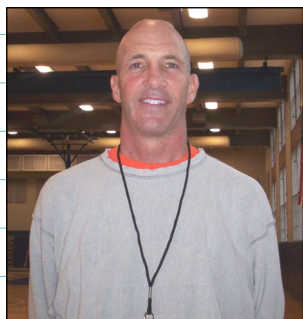
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Two New Coaches for Lady Mounts

By Vivian Ruiz and Tori Vache*

Here at HMS we have two new coaches for the girl's basketball Lady Mounts team. Head coach Miss Touch and her assistant coach decided to take a break this season after coaching for a few years in a row.

Mr. Brogan has been named the new head coach. He has been coaching this sport for 16 years, and most recently coached the



Head Coach Mr. Brogan

HAHS ninth grade boy's team.

Coach Brogan enjoys coaching basketball. He believes he has a good team this year. When asked why he came to HMS to coach he said, "I applied and got the job."

This year coach Brogan has plans to teach the teams as much as possible about the game of basketball. He said the girls, "listen well. They are good kids and they'll try hard this year."

Mrs. Baron is the assistant coach. She has been coaching for 7 years and she also is a coach for the NEPA Rampage.

Mrs. Baron also said she enjoys coaching. She feels the team is getting better every day. The girls come in to practice every day and



2011-2012 Lady Mounts take a break for a picture during practice.

they are growing and learning. Coach Baron said, "They are making great strides towards improvement."



Asst. Coach Baron

As we had the opportunity to watch some of the practice, it was apparent they enjoy what they are doing - and they are good at it too! The exercises they were doing looked extremely difficult. Neither of us could have done it. Well, definitely not as well. They made it look as though it took no effort at all, especially when baskets were made. The coaches were patient and made the directions understandable. It was fun to watch!

We definitely have two

great coaches and a great team too! Good luck to you all on your next game.

Lady Mounts Basketball Schedule



Sept. 8—@ West Haz.

Sept. 12—@ Holy Fam.

Sept. 15—vs. Heights

Sept. 19—vs. Freeland

Sept. 22—vs. MMI

Sept. 26—@ Valley

Sept. 29—@ Drums

Oct. 3—Holy Family

Oct. 6—@ Heights

Oct. 11—vs. West Haz.

Oct. 13—@ Valley

Oct. 17—@ Freeland

Oct. 20—vs. Drums

Oct. 24—@ MMI

Oct. 27—vs. Heights

Oct. 31—@ West Haz.

Nov. 3—@ Holy Fam.

Playoffs will be held the week of Nov. 7th at the HAHS gymnasium



Mounts Cheerleaders

By Jennifer Alberto*

Our cheerleaders show they love this school and they support the students and teachers in it. Every year the squad gets bigger. That shows how much students love HEMS. So let's hear it for our cheerleaders:

Audrey Castillo, Patricia Espinal, Malena Gallucci (captain), Leyole Garcia, Natalie Gonzalez, Linda Gutierrez, Christley Mena, Crismery Paredes, Estephany Peguero, Elyssa Pizarro, Pricilla Rodriguez (captain), Vianny Rojas, Aidalis Simet, Jassiel Smith, Michelle Stojkov, Theanny Velasco, and Kayla Wiseman...and, of course, their coach Mrs. O'Donnell.

Being captain isn't an easy job. I sat down with the captains and coach to find out more.

Q: How is it being captain?

Gallucci: It's really fun!

Rodriguez: It's awesome...so much fun!

Q: Is it hard to be captain?

Rodriguez: Not really. You just have to be reasonable.

Q: How did you guys feel during the first game of the season?

Gallucci: Excited. I knew everyone was going to do good and I wanted everyone to see how good we are.

Rodriguez: I had butterflies in my belly, but it was awesome.

Q: How do you think the squad is doing this year?

Gallucci: They are improving every time I see



Gallucci (left) & Rodriguez (right) hold trophy with the squad

them and they have been practicing a lot.

Rodriguez: They try their best and they do great.

Q: Do you girls have any advise for next year's captains?

Gallucci: Be sure in your decisions and just make sure YOU know what YOU are doing.

Rodriguez: Just don't be mean because you are the captain. Be yourself. Be like you were when you weren't captain and (set) a good example to the other girls.

I also got to ask Mrs. O'Donnell a few questions.

Q: How do you think your squad is doing this year?

Mrs. O: They are doing really good. They got a trophy for their participation in the Funfest parade

and they were very excited. It is in the trophy case.

Q: Are you proud that so many girls tried out this year?

Mrs. O: It's great that we have 17 girls this year.

It is the biggest amount that I have had in the four years that I am the coach. Now that we have more girls we can do more stunting, which the girls love.

Q: If you could change anything that has happened with the cheerleaders this year, what would it be?

Mrs. O: I would have liked the girls to have gone to camp in the summer, but we didn't have enough money to go because it was very expensive. Camp is where the girls learn lots of new material, get to work with professional cheerleaders, and bond as a new

team.

Q: Has it been easy to teach the cheers to the new cheerleaders?

Mrs. O: It can be hard for them to learn all the material at once, but as the year goes on they get better.

Q: Next year, what do you look for in selecting your captains?

Mrs. O: I look for someone who has good leadership ability. Also, I strongly take their previous year's performance and attendance into consideration. They need to be responsible and devoted.

The cheerleaders are always busy. They are currently cheering for the Lady Mounts basketball season, to be followed by the boy's basketball season.

They are having a Halloween bake sale at the Laurel Mall during carnival weekend. The bake sale is Saturday, October 15th from 10-5pm.

In December the girls plan to have a candygram sale and sell candy canes grams like they did last year.

The winter brings cheerleading competitions and the squad will be participating in a competition at Penn State University.

Finally, the mounts cheerleaders always raise money for the American Cancer Society and participate in the telethon held at the Laurel Mall every year.

The girls are very hard-working, but have lots of fun. Tryouts are held in May for new members.

Why Join a Club?

By Leyole Garcia and Estephany Peguero*

What clubs are available at HEMS?

The Castle Caller is a student-run newspaper filled with exciting stories. It's run by Mrs. O'Donnell, who serves as newspaper editor. The club meets once a quarter to assign story topics and students work independently.

S.A.D.D. (Students Against Dangerous Decisions) is run by Mr. Hearne and helps students with difficult life decisions. It meets once a month and creates bulletin boards around the school based on key issues for kids today.

NJHS (National Junior Honor Society) is run by Mrs. Dudeck. Students must maintain a certain average to be part of the club. Members do activities to better the community.

PJAS (Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science) is run by Mrs. Sheblock and Mr. Hudock. Students do science experiments and present their findings in a competition. First place winners go to Penn State for a few days and present their findings.

Art club, run by Mrs. Cunningham, will help the school and community

by making props for the drama club or cards for the salvation army.

Ecology club is run by Mr. Schifano. The purpose of this club is find ways to conserve natural resources and make the community a better place.

Community service is devoted to helping make the community better by doing activities that help the poor, people in nursing homes, or those with rare diseases. The club is run by Mrs. Rimshaw.

Spelling Bee is open to 6th-8th graders. Those who win will move on to the

regional then national competition. Mrs. Rimshaw is also the advisor.

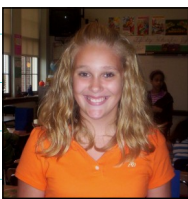
Drama club is the newest club started by Mrs. Rimshaw and Mrs. Dudeck. Students will get to perform in plays that will be put on for the school.

Student Council is the student government. Students voted in by their peers work to develop good citizenship. They better student-teacher, student-student, and student-community relationships. They also promote school spirit all year!

Student Reporters

By Gianna Tuggle*

The following is an interview with the two new Standard Speaker student reporters – Ciara Bannon and Rebecca Schell. Let's learn a bit more about them.



Bannon

Q : Why did you want to participate as a Standard Speaker reporter?

Bannon: My brother did it and it's just something I wanted to do.

Schell: Because writing is something I want to do and it's my passion.

Q: How were you selected?

Bannon: Teacher recommendation.

Schell: I volunteered.

Q: What do you have to do every week?

Bannon and Schell both said they have to collect information from various teachers in charge of clubs and then report it back to Mrs. O'Donnell.

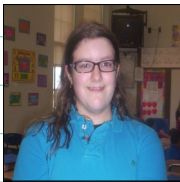
Q: Do you get paid?

Bannon: Yes, but only a little, not a lot.

Schell: Yes, but a very small amount.

The student columns for all schools in our district were featured in the Standard Speaker every Tuesday. Look for Ciara's and Rebecca's column for the latest HEMS news.

Any 6th or 7th grade student interested in working as a student reporter for next year must do well in their English/writing class.



Schell

New HEMS Teachers

By Victoria Gobeo*

I had the opportunity to meet with two of the new teachers at our school - Mrs. Marszalek and Mr. Smith. Mrs. Marszalek teaches seventh grade science.

Q: How do you like this school?

Marszalek: It's good. I like it. It's pretty unique.

Q: Where did you teach before you can here?

Marszalek: At the high school and West Hazleton.

Q: How long have you been teaching?

Marszalek: 8 years.

Q: What do you think of your students?

Marszalek: You got the good kids and the bad kids. They're normal kids.

Mrs. Marszalek also said she likes how everything is online this year.

Mr. Smith teaches elementary learning support.

Q: What do you think of HEMS?

Smith: The students and the staff are good. I am looking forward to working with them.

Q: Where did you teach before here?

Smith: Freeland.

Q: What are your goals for the year?

Smith: To have a positive impact with the educational views of my students.

Mr. Smith also said that he is looking forward to the remainder of the school year.

In addition to Mrs. Marszalek and Mr. Smith, we'd like to welcome the following new teachers: Ms. McDemott, speech; Miss Poluka, 5th and 6th grade math, and Mr. Poluka's daughter; and Miss Grimm, 4th grade.

MOUNT'S CORNER CHAT

By: Julissa Herrera and Olivia Kokinda

Are students looking forward to this school year?

76% YES

24% NO

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

Mount's Corner Chat

By Julissa Herrera and Olivia Kokinda

Welcome back to school fellow HEMS students and teachers. *The Castle Caller's* Mount's Corner Chat column is a quarterly poll asked to HMS students. The questions are on different topics that affect the students here.

This quarter's question is about whether students are looking forward to this school year? Surprisingly, at 76%, most of the students are, while 24% of students are not. Since the majority are, we are going to focus this article on

those students.

Eighth grader **Danielle Provanzano** said, "Yes because it's my last year at HEMS so I want to make it



Plesh

the best!" Eighth grader **Jasmine Abreu** said, "No because I am not going to be here."

Kyle Plesh, seventh grade, said, "Yes to play basketball."

Joanny Jimenez, eighth grade, said "Yes, because I want eighth grade to be over with to get to the high school."

Seventh grader **Josh Capriotti** said, "Yes, I have a lot of friends."

Christley Mena, eighth grade, said, "Yes because I can't wait for the dances."



Mena

Rebecca Scatton, seventh grade, said she was looking forward to it.

Finally, eighth grader **Thonya Umana** said, "Yes, because I am playing basketball."

There are many reasons why students are looking forward to school this year. All the students excited about the year were looking forward to dances, clubs, or sporting activities they take part in.

The more activities you take part in, the more fun you will have in school.

Do I Really Need to Fundraise?

By Hope Kinney and Isaac Perez

School fundraising is done through a variety of methods with the involvement of students, parents, and teachers. Fundraising helps the school collect money for various needs, like items, services and programs.

Fundraising also promotes teamwork and helps members feel like they are working together to achieve goals.

Eighth grade student, **Jessie Caso** said, "Fundraising is important to raise money for the school."

There are many ways to fundraise. Students can ask parents, family and friends to help raise money. Many parents or grandparents will help by taking fundraising to work. They are able to reach more people that way.

Kyle Plesh, seventh grade, said he fundraises by asking his friends and family to buy items for the school.

Ms. Molinaro, the PTA president, is in charge of fundraising for the school. According to her, the money we collect goes towards programs, assemblies, student equipment and field trips.

There are a lot of up-

coming fundraisers planned for this year, such as the Christmas flower sale, the book fair, a snack sale and the Victoria's candy sale.

Ms. Molinaro tries to make fundraising exciting to get all students to participate. If we do not participate, we cannot do extra activities or have parties or field trips. There will be no money. So, let's do our best to make it a great year!

Halloween Costume Plans

By Christley Mena and Vianny Rojas

It's that time of year again when blood sucking vampires and broom riding witches come out to celebrate Halloween.

How do you celebrate? Well let's just say you better have some nice costumes on this very special Halloween day.

Some of the HEMS students shared their ideas for Halloween costumes with us.

Chelsea Marte, eighth grade, plans to have fun and masquerade. "I'm going trick or treating with my awesome friends Christley, Vianny, Mineylie, Diana and some other people," she said.

Seventh grader Natalie Gonzalez said, "I'm going to be a Barbie doll! Plus I'm going to do freaky Friday in school, then I'm going



trick or treating with my friends. I'm going to party hardy all day."

So watch out everyone! So watch out everyone! So watch out everyone! So watch out everyone! So watch out everyone!

Partners in crime Jose Cabrera and Josiel

grade, is going to dress up as a guy and go trick or treating.

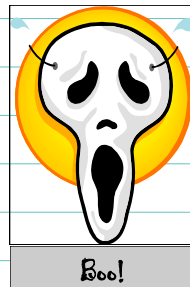
Kelsey Cruz, eighth grade, is going trick or treating with friends and

Seventh grade teacher

Mr. Hearne is planning to be a baseball pitcher for the Red Sox. Plus he is going to take his little girl, who is going to be dressed as Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz, and his son, who is going to dress as a skeleton, trick or treating. He's also going to be eating lots of chocolate.

Seventh and eighth grade teacher Mr. Whitely is going to dress up as Mr. Schifano for Halloween!?! He's going to give out candy while his wife takes his kids trick or treating.

Last, but not least, Evelin Basila and Alexandra Cabrera are going to hide in their closets and scare their siblings. Watch out for those too!



Editor-in-Chief

Mrs. O'Donnell

*Denotes Mrs. O'Donnell assisted with the article.

Staff Reporters

Jennifer Alberto • Leyole Garica • Victoria Gobeo
Natalie Gonzalez • Jennifer Guzman • Julissa Herrera
Hope Kinney • Olivia Kokinda • Christley Mena
Estephany Peguero • Isaac Perez • Elyssa Pizarro
Pricilla Rodriguez • Vianny Rojas • Vivian Ruiz
Gianna Tuggle • Tori Vache

Photographers

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