

The Castle Caller



FREE

A Student Newspaper

Fall Edition 2015

Seventh Graders Settle in Middle School

By Rubith Diaz & Maria Rosso
Junior Reporters

Since the start of the new year, many seventh graders are still adjusting to the new features of middle school.

Genesis Martinez said, "I like seventh grade because I can have many more opportunities, like join clubs."

Amaury Fernandez feels it still needs to sink in that he is in seventh grade, but so far the experience has been great.

"My favorite class so far is Mrs. Dudeck because she is fun and energetic," said **Brandy**

Rodriguez. She said she is adjusting well, but she feels pretty tired.

Austin Card said, "It's confusing, and it can be hard...but it is also fun."

Genesis Soto said she is still not adjusted to the lockers. She has difficulty with them.

"Seventh grade is easy because most of the work is from last year," said **Sierra Sword**. She feels she is adjusting to seventh grade, and HMS, very well. Sword did not attend HEMS last year.

"Seventh grade is great...it can be a little confusing at the beginning, but as soon as you get the hang of it, it can be fun." **Garrick Garcia**, HMS Seventh Grader

Ivan Hernandez said he is adjusting well because there is no homework.

Trinity Hudock said, "Seventh grade isn't hard unless you make it hard on yourself." Her advice to other seventh graders is "Just stay out of the way and don't be bad. Just be yourself."

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Fun(d) Walkers Raise Money for HEMS

By Jerry Marcallo & Kaitlyn Roskos
Junior Reporters

The PTA is continuing to raise money for HEMS by holding a Fun(d) Walk on Oct. 12. Before the walk, we spoke to students, teachers and staff who all hoped most students would participate so we could have exciting field trips this year. All proceeds go towards the students.

Ana Madera, sixth grade, said she hoped it didn't rain.

"I am excited about the fun walk because it's a great chance to get out of class," said **Ajaiyah Roman**.

Seventh grader **Karen Pujols** wanted louder music to walk to.

Leandra Santana, 6th grade, said she was excited to exercise outside.

Fifth grade teacher **Mrs. Rafalli** said, "I AM SO EXCITED ABOUT THE FUN WALK! I

HOPE EVERYBODY IN THE SCHOOL PARTICIPATES AND THAT IT WILL BE A HUGE SUCCESS!"

Some students commented that they loved the fun walk because it is a great opportunity to get out of class. Though this is true, we must remember the purpose of the walk is to raise money to support the school.

The teachers and staff

want all students to know that every penny counts. Your donations to either this or any other fundraiser are much appreciated.

After the walk, it was reported that the homerooms that raised the most money were Mr. Havrilla's fourth grade and Mrs. Force's seventh grade classes. Congratulations to move classes. They will be rewarded with a classroom party.

SPORTS

Winter Sports Season is Here

By Clarissa Nunez & Destiny Cabrera
Senior Reporter & Junior Reporter*

This year a lot has changed. We have new coaches for both the girls' and boys' basketball teams and every member of the cheerleading squad is new, except for the captain. What a difference a year makes!

Girls' basketball coach Mr. Campbell resigned as coach and moved to Valley Elementary. Mr. Brogan will be replacing him. Mr. Brogan is no stranger to the Castle, as he has coached the girls' team here in the past. We'd like to welcome him back!

We interviewed some past members of the basketball teams to see how they are feeling about the upcoming seasons.

Olivia Santiago, eighth grade, said if she could rate how the girls' basketball team will change this year on a scale of 1 to 10 she gives it a 10!

Santiago said they don't have a lot of the same players as last year. Many of them graduated on to ninth grade or moved to Maple Manor. She said conditioning is going well and she is confident they will make playoffs this year.

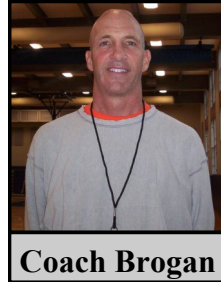
Another eighth grade girls' basketball player, **Ann**

Marie McGrogan, said that she hopes the team wins more games this year because of their new coach. Looking to the future, she hopes to get the second or third seat in playoffs. She also said conditioning is going well.

Finally, **Brianna Santos**, eighth grade, said she is really enjoying conditioning and the drills. She feels the team will be better this year...

As far as playoffs, Santos thinks there is a possibility they will make it this year. They are confident.

The boys' basketball team also has a new coach this year. Our vice-principal, and head boys' basketball coach, Mr. DeNoia is on leave and will not be coaching the team this year. Assistant boys' coach Mr. Plesh will move into the head coach position, and Mr. Silva will serve as assistant coach this season.



Coach Brogan

Despite the changes, the boys' basketball team seems confident for the upcoming season. **Ryan Fisher**, eighth grade, is enjoying conditioning and thinks the team will change this year.

Fisher said the team is going to keep getting better because they have lots of returners and better players this year.

"We are definitely going to championships because I'm on the team," said Fisher.

Edgar Soto, eighth grade, said, "We have the ambition and many returners from last year."

Matthew Fisher, eighth grade, likes conditioning because of Mr. Silva. He said, "I think we will make it to playoffs because of our great coach, Mr. Silva."

This year the cheerleading squad has all new members, except for the captain Clarissa Nunez. The team lost a few returners to Maple Manor, and many of last year's members graduated.

In addition to Nunez, Brittany Duran and Diana Santana serve as co-captains.

Despite all the new members, the team recently competed at the Cougar Rumble Cheer Competition on November 1st at Hazleton Area High School. The team placed second in their division performing a hometown cheer.

The girls future plans include another competition this winter, as well as cheering for the boys' and girls' home basketball games.



2nd Place 2015 Cougar Rumble Competition

CLUBS

Student Council

By Luis Rojas & Yaribel Ramos
Junior Reporters

This year there is a new student council and they have some pretty exciting plans for the new year. From the Thanksgiving food drive to decorating the Christmas tree in the lobby, they have it all covered.

Want to hear what the new student council members have to say about being chosen as a member?

Seventh grader **Gabriela Velez** said she heard being on student council is very exciting. She said, "I heard it's very fun..." She said she will try her best to make sure our school raises money for better field trips this year.

Seventh grader **Albert Medina** said, "I am very excited about the new plans and also very thankful for my friends for voting me." He also said this is a very big opportunity for him to be helping out the school and people in need.

Seventh grader **Diana Hernandez** said she wants to help our school. She said she would like to support what students are asking for this year!

Seventh grader **Arielys Sension** is also very thankful for being voted in. She said it's an honor to be able to do all these wonderful things for the school and also to be able to help out people outside of it.

Seventh grader **Brayan Pena Lorenzo** says he feels very lucky about being on student council. He wants to support the school, staff, and students.

Just like the members are excited to be able to do all these things, so are the class-

mates that voted for them.

Eighth grader **Olivia Santiago** said that she appreciates all the support and is very anxious about the new plans. She also said, "It feels fantastic that I will be able to help out the school, which is the reason why I joined the club."

Eighth grader **Brianna Santos** said she joined student council to be a leader for the students at H.E.M.S.

Eighth grader **Yaxiel Peguero** said that apart from all the work they will be doing, they will also be helping out their friends and other classmates in anything they need. He said this year will be very fun with all the cool stuff they will be doing and is looking forward to it.

Eighth grader **Maddie Plesh** said she feels so fantastic about being on student council. She said she wants to make this year fun.

I guess it is true with all the new ideas and cool plans that Ms. Delucca has planned out for student council, this year will be very fun and interesting at the same time.

Student Council Officers

President

Verina Gad

Vice-President

Ann Marie McGrogan

Secretary

Ryan Fisher

Community Service

Chairperson

Brianna Santos

Community Service

By Nayely Paulino & Brandy Rodriguez
Junior Reporters

The middle school community service club has big plans for this year.

Seventh grader **Duly Morillo** said they are planning to raise money for the school's field trips. He said the fundraisers will be held in school.

Maria Jimenez, seventh grade, agreed in saying the club planned to raise money to help support field trips this year. She said, "We don't know when it will be, but it is so we can go on field trips."

Seventh graders **Taylor Williams, Karen Pujols, Ruby Diaz Leyva,** and **Jason Lainez** are eager to do the random acts of kindness exercise that the club does every year. This is when you do a kind deed for someone else and expect nothing in return. You just do it to be a good person.

Lainez said, "We are doing it to be kind and to help."

Samuel Figueroa, eighth grade, said, "We are making cards for niceness. If we do something nice we give it to the person we did it for. Then we say,

'Tag...you're it.' Then they do something nice."

Olivia Santiago, eighth grade, said they also planned to clean the environment around the school. "We don't know when we are going to do it, but it is to make the world a better place." She wasn't sure when they were going to do it, but she felt it could be done every day of the week.

If you are interested in participating in any of these activities, see Mrs. Rimshaw to sign up. It isn't too late to join.

NJHS Plans

By Kiana Batista
Junior Reporter

NJHS club advisor, Mrs. Dudeck, plans to write letters and send cards to soldiers this year. She says it's a great way to make them smile while they are deployed on their mission. She needs as much help as she can get. Volunteers are welcome. Interested students would stay after school in order to finish the cards in time to send out for the holidays. The process will start in November and continue into December.

Mrs. Dudeck would also like to do a dress down day to boost school spirit and a dodgeball tournament to raise money for charity. Join today!

FEATURES

Class Sizes Inconsistent after Maple Move

By Mrs. O'Donnell

Assisted by Dianna Santana and Henely Santana, Junior Reporters

A lot has changed at HEMS over the last two years. Last year, many elementary students were moved to Maple Manor Elementary School, located across the street from the Hazleton Area High School campus. This move made the elementary class sizes at HEMS much smaller. These lower class sizes made our teachers, students and parents very happy.

This year, the middle school students at HEMS were moved to Maple Manor, as the construction of the middle school section of the building was completed at the new school, resulting in lower class sizes for HEMS middle school students and teachers.

Seventh grader **Genesis Soto** said her classes did, in fact, get smaller because a



Maple Manor Middle School opened in September.

lot of her friends went to Maple Manor.

In eighth grade, **Daffrey Mercedes** said his classes got smaller, as a result of Maple Manor opening.

"My classes have gotten smaller. They are quieter. It is easier for me to pay attention," said Mercedes.

Eighth grader **Leisha Abreu** agrees with Mercedes. She said, "It's better because it's not as loud, but I still miss my friends that went to Maple."

Ironially, the low-

"My classes have gotten smaller. They are quieter. It is easier for me to pay attention."

-Daffrey Mercedes, HEMS eighth grader

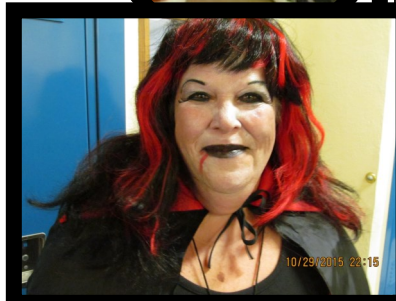
er numbers in our elementary classes have gone away this year, as the elementary school lost a few teachers to Maple Manor and other schools in the district. Instead of having 6 or 7 sections in a grade level, there are only 4.

Classes are very full with as many as 30-31 students in a room.

Currently there are only a little over a two hundred students in the middle school at HEMS.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?



Halloween Fun

By Kaleigh Frederick
and
Taylor Williams
Junior Reporters

Halloween has come and gone. Before the holiday, HEMS students told us how they planned to celebrate.

Zashary Rodriguez, eighth grade, planned to be a witch and go out with friends to get candy.

Eighth grader **Verina Gad** said she was going trick or treating with her friends as a cat.

Seventh grader **Arielys Sencion** planned to trick or treat with her bestie Genesis. She is going as a cheerleader, although she IS a cheerleader.

Sixth grader **Jeison Hernandez** planned to stay home this year.

We hope everyone had a fun night however they chose to celebrate!

Harvest Dance

By Samuel Figueroa
Senior Reporter

The Harvest Dance was held on Friday, October 23rd From 6-8pm in the school cafeteria.

The dance was sponsored by the student council. Advisor Ms. DeLucca and the council put a lot of work into it every year, making sure things are perfect for the students attending.

For half of the students, this is the first dance experience for them. Because of this, the seventh graders are usually nervous to attend.

I interviewed a few seventh, and even some eighth, grade students to see what their expectations were before the dance. Here is what they had to say:

Juliana Ward, eighth grade, said she was excited to go because it is her

last year at the Castle and she wants to make it a good one.

Eighth grader **Adrian Nivar** was glad he had a fun event where he could hang out with his friends.

Seventh graders **Arielys Sencion** and **Yaribel Ramos** were interested in seeing what the dance would be like since she never went to one before.

Julio Espinal, seventh grade, planned to go to the dance with his girlfriend, Debra.

Seventh grader **Emmanuel Herrera** was excited to go to the dance to just dance!

Hopefully a fun time was had by all. The next middle school dance will be the Valentine's Dance in February. See you all then!

Gifted Happenings

By: Brayan Pena Lorenzo
Junior Reporter

Eighth grade gifted students will attend The Pennsylvania Renaissance Fair in Manheim, PA. They interacted with characters in a 16th century village setting.

Seventh grade gifted students attended a habitat assessment study at Nescopeck State Park. Students worked with an environmentalist education specialist and learned about animals and their adaptations.

Mrs. S. Sharp is the gifted teacher.

S.

The Castle Caller Staff

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