



The Castle Caller

HAZLETON ELEMETARY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Holiday Edition ~ December 2012



Couch Potato Santa Debuts

By Alexandra Miglas and Rebecca Schell
Junior Reporter and Senior Reporter

Ho ho ho! It's the holiday season and drama club is up and buzzing, practicing their new play, *Couch Potato Santa* by Jimmy Brunelle! Drama club is run by 7th grade reading teacher Mrs. Dudeck and 8th grade language arts teacher Ms. Rimshaw. An interview was conducted with Ms. Rimshaw and cast members Victoria Vache', Jessica McPherson, Rebecca Schell, Jose Columna, and Theanny Velasco.

Interview with Mrs. Rimshaw:

Q: Why did you choose to do the play *Couch Potato Santa*?

Rimshaw: We wanted to have a Christmas comedy for drama club.

Q: What can people expect from the play?

Rimshaw: To get in the Christmas spirit and laugh out loud.

Q: Is there anything you would change about the play?

Rimshaw: We did make some changes to the play and added some characters.

Q: Do you have any specific future plans for drama club?

Rimshaw: Possibly a talent show using a combination of NJHS members and drama members, and an end of the year play.

Interview with cast members:

Q: What part are you por-



The cast of *Couch Potato Santa* poses for a group shot a few weeks before the show opens to audiences on December 20.

traying in the play?

Vache': Mrs. Claus

McPherson: Santa

Schell: Doctor Sigmund Igloo, an insane psychiatrist.

Columna: Jack Frost

Velasco: Rudolph

Q: Is there anything special people should keep an eye out for?

Vache': The hitting Christmas tree!

McPherson: Funny comments.

Schell: Anything behind me.

Columna: Me!

Velasco: My nose!

Q: Are you nervous about performing?

Vache': Yeah, a little.

McPherson: Yes

Schell: Not a lot, but I'm afraid of messing up my big line in front of my friends.

Columna: Nope

Velasco: No way!

Q: Is there anything specifically funny about your character?

Vache': I can't dance. (laughs)

McPherson: The way I act and respond to people.

Schell: My pacing, spacing out, and how I'm very freaked out at everything.

Columna: When I argue with the Grinch.

Velasco: My nose and I'm very conceded and I'm singing and I'm hyper. Did you get all that?

All of the cast members,

Mrs. Dudeck and Ms. Rimshaw believe the play will be a great success and will get people laughing in their seats.

Eighth graders Cassandra Tarez and Joshua Plesce can't wait to see their friends in the play, while Joshua Walper said he can't wait to see the weird costumes his friends are going to be wearing.

Elementary students will attend the show on December 20th during school, and middle school will attend the show on December 21st. Parents, friends, and family may attend at night on December 20th. Admission is \$2. Come out and support the drama club and get into the holiday spirit!

Holiday Hunt: FIND the hidden Santa Claus head. It is hidden somewhere in this newspaper. When you find it, make a Christmas wish!

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HAPPENINGS



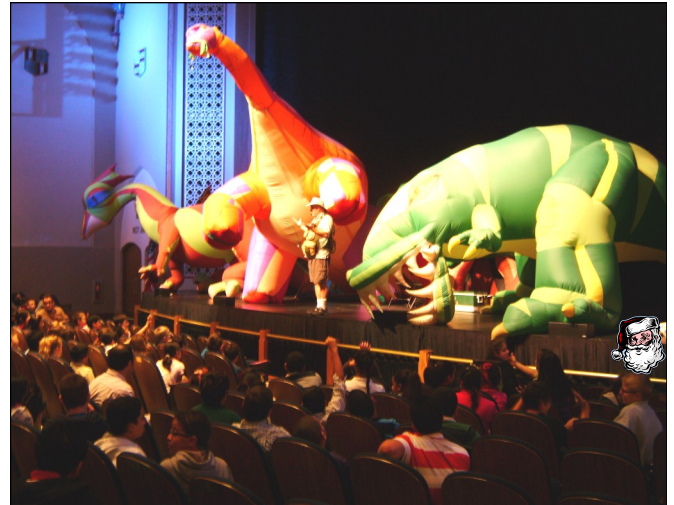
Recent School Events



The Hazleton Rotary Club once again sponsored the Kidz Coats program. This program donates new winter jackets to the Hazleton Elementary Middle School to be given to students in need during the cold winter months. Guidance Counselor Mrs. Planutis (left) accepted the coats from several members of the rotary club, along with HEMS Vice Principal, Mr. Denoia, and Principal, Ms. DeRose. Several seventh and eighth graders were also on-hand to accept the donation: (Left) Erika Castro, Chantal Guerrero, Pedro Urena, Adriana Alfieri, and Nisel Florenti-



Sixth graders strike a scary pose during the Halloween parade on October 26th. The high school band led the way around the school.



Elementary students and teachers were entertained and educated with a presentation on dinosaurs held in November. Three life size balloon dinosaurs were used during the program to show students just how big the dinosaurs were. No children were harmed during this presentation.



HOLIDAY FEATURES



Dear Santa,

By Vivian Ruiz
Senior Reporter

The snow is falling. The time is near. Children are laughing and full of cheer. Most can't wait for winter vacation to be with their families and have a celebration.

Some can't wait to play in the snow. To stand outside and feel the cold wind blow. But there is one thing the kids at The Castle can't wait for and that is the presents. So I took the time out of my busy schedule to ask some kids if they are looking forward to anything special. I asked what they wanted before Old Saint Nick arrived. Some wanted lots of things, others couldn't decide. Most of the eighth graders wanted brand new things like clothes, games and diamond rings. Most of the seventh graders wanted new technology, like Wii U, video games, and a brand new Barbie! I asked, what is it that they wanted. And here are the things that they responded.

First, the things the eighth graders said. So go, get started, and read on ahead. **Leiry Rumaldo** wants a Wii control

and new Wii games because she is lonely playing by herself and bored with her old games. She also wants an I-Tunes card and an I-Pod for her brother, because he wants to download the newest hits and she is tired of her brother always borrowing hers.

Carson Kinney and **Dylan Mehl** would like to meet Megan Fox for Christmas. Mehl would also like the new NBA2K13, because he says it's better than the old one.

Kathy Williams wants the I-Pad and the I-Phone 5 because she loves technology.

Theanny Velasco wants a new phone, a laptop, shoes, and a Wii.

Maria Torres wants a TV, a new cell phone, a Wii, and a laptop to entertain herself.

Jerry Gasser is hoping to get a new basketball hoop, since his old one broke.

Nathan Pliska wants new video games.

Sammie Gable wants money, a laptop, and a new phone because her laptop broke and she could always use the

money.

Jose Columna wants a tank, Assassin's Creed 3, and Assassin's Creed Revelations so he can finally have a complete pack.

Now here are the things the seventh graders were asking, so read and see, but you'll probably die laughing!

Michael Petruzzi wants the Call of Duty: Black Ops 2 because he really doesn't want to pay \$60 for it. No one does.

Pedro Urena wants a dog because they are fun.

Heilyn Lara wants candy and clothes because she likes to eat candy and wear different clothes to express her feelings.

AJ Jimenet is hoping for a Wii U, an I-Phone, and an I-Pod because they are new and awesome.

Jessica McPherson wants the I-Phone 5 and a good Christmas with her family because it



wasn't as much fun as she thought it would be last year.

Cassidy Lugo is hoping for the Wii U and to spend time with her whole family this Christmas.

Naomi Calderon wants a lot of shoes and Weekend's album.

Norbelia Gonzalez wants a laptop so she can chat with her friends.

Now that Santa knows what most kids desire, maybe he'll add it to his Christmas list before he grows tired. Now that this article is almost done, I just want to say one more thing before I run. I hope everyone has a great vacation and wonderful Christmas, because when we return we just might miss it.



HOLIDAY FEATURES



Favorite Holiday Flicks

By Yulimar Abre and Jenifer Arias*
Junior Reporters

One great way to get into the holiday spirit is by watching Christmas movies. What is your favorite? That movie you just have to watch every year, even though you've seen it a hundred times.

Cassidy Lugo enjoys *The Nightmare Before Christmas* because it's a creative mix of Halloween and Christmas.

Estiesy Pena enjoys

A Christmas Carol because this movie teaches the true meaning of Christmas, which is the importance of giving rather than receiving, as well as spending time with friends and family.

Johnathan Pozniak likes *Elf* because it's a funny movie about an elf that really gets into the Christmas spirit. He said, "It's a good movie to watch with your friends and family."

Zuleyka Rivera enjoys *Santa Paws* because the puppies are super cute and they save Christmas. Plus, everyone likes puppies.

Mrs. Shebelock, seventh grade science, likes *A Christmas Story* because watching it is a family tradition and it is very funny.

Mrs. Force, seventh grade social studies, prefers *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* be-

cause it makes her laugh.

Mrs. Dudeck, seventh grade reading, likes *It's a Wonderful Life* due to its timeless themes.

Mr. Williams enjoys the holiday classic *Home Alone*, while **Mrs. Karlick** can't miss *A Christmas Story*.

Whatever your holiday "must see" is, watch it soon because Christmas is here!

Mounts Corner Chat

By Yasmina Dzairi and Yuliana Martinez*
Junior Reporters

During the Christmas season, we all have many different traditions. For example, some of us open our Christmas presents on Christmas Eve, while others stick to opening their gifts on Christmas morning. This edition of Mounts Corner Chat did a survey of middle school teachers and students and to see when the most popular time was to open gifts.

Mrs. Rodgers, eighth grade math, said, "My family does a pj exchange on Christmas night and we open gifts Christmas day."

Dominique DeSpirito, eighth grade, said she opens gifts "Christmas morning because all my family comes over."

Mrs. Dougherty said, "My family shares Christmas gifts on Christmas day. Christmas Eve was very busy at my house growing up because my dad is a minister. He had several church services on Christmas Eve."

Maria Torres, eighth grade, said, "I open my Christmas presents on Christmas Eve because we can't wait."

There are some people

who have a totally different tradition. **Theresa Schreffler**, eighth grade, said, "I get one gift on Christmas Eve and the rest on Christmas day."

Rebecca Schell, eighth grade, opens one gift on Black Friday, Christmas Eve, and the

rest on Christmas day."

Mr. Hudock, eighth grade science, opens presents with his wife's family on Christmas Eve and with his family on Christmas day.

In the end, we all have the same intentions no matter what the tradition.

MOUNT'S CORNER CHAT

By: Yasmina Dzairi and Yuliana Martinez
Junior Reporters

When do you open your Christmas gifts?

64% Christmas Day

25% Christmas Eve

11% A Different Tradition

*Poll based on answers from approximately 100 teachers and students at HMS.



SPORTS



Girls' Basketball Makes a Move

By Nisel Florentino and Isis Torres*
Junior Reporters

Basketball season is just starting, but girls' basketball usually starts in September. This year, for the first time, both girls' and boys' basketball will take place at the same time.

Mr. Brogan, head girls' coach, said the change had to do with Title IX," which is a federal, educational law that promotes gender equality. To say that simply, it gives girls the same opportunities as boys.



Coach Brogan

We asked a few of the girls who made the team how things were going. Kimberly Bellard, seventh grade, said, "The practices can be intense, but they are still fun because we learn a lot. It also helps us to work on our skills."

Jessica Cusatis, seventh grade, is very excited to start

the games and she will try her best to make the team win.

Most of the basketball players say they are having so much fun because they are spending time practicing and that gives us a good chance of winning most of our games.

We congratulate all the girls who made it onto the basketball team! For anyone who didn't, keep training and try again next year. Don't give up. You always have another opportunity next year!

Lady Mounts - 8th Gr. Team

*Ciara Bannon
Kimberly Bellard
Jarielys Castillo
Mariah Coles
Jessica Cusatis
Dominique DeSpirito
Alissa Garcia
Cindy Gutierrez
Hope Kinney
Jordan Moose
Destiny Nika
Bianca Pizarro
Rebecca Rossi
Rebecca Scatton
Isis Torres*

Dribbling to Success

By Alissa Garcia & Natalie Gonzalez*
Junior Reporters

Is everyone ready for this year's boys' basketball games? We hope so! These players have been working so hard to become our role models to success.

A few of the players took some time to talk with us as well. Seventh grader **Jimmy Velez** said he loves to play basketball and shooting is his favorite thing.

Eighth grader **Isaac Perez** said, "I love playing. It's always a challenge to me." The thing he likes the most about basketball is when he hears the crowd cheer his name. He also said he is hungry for the champion-



Eighth grade b-ball players (from left) Brian Harry, Frank Musoline, Christian Lantigua, Gabriel Pujols, and Bryan Brea.

ship.

The coaches for the boys' basketball team are our very own Mr. De-

Noia, who coaches the seventh grade team, and Mr. Brogan, who coaches the eighth grade team.

Mounts Basketball Home Game Schedule

December 17-W. Haz.
December 20-Berwick
January 3-Drums
January 9-Heights
January 17-McAdoo
January 22-Freeland
January 30-H. Family
February 7-MMI
February 13*-Valley
*8th Grade Farewell



If eligible, playoff game dates and times will be announced and are played at HAHS.

2013 Resolutions

By Leiry Rumaldo and Gabriela Tomax
Junior Reporters

3, 2, 1...Happy (almost) New Year! It's nearly time for 2013! Resolutions could be flying through your head or you could be thinking of what your getting for Christmas. We've talked to students and staff of HEMS who were kind enough to share their resolutions with us.

Destiny Henry, eighth grade, said "I want to calm down a little bit."

Kathy Williams, eighth grade, and **Nelson Perez**, seventh grade, both said they want to get good grades.

Seidy Bobadilly, seventh grade, said, "I want to stop talking so much and get good grades."

Dominique Despirito, eighth grade, said her New Year's Resolu-

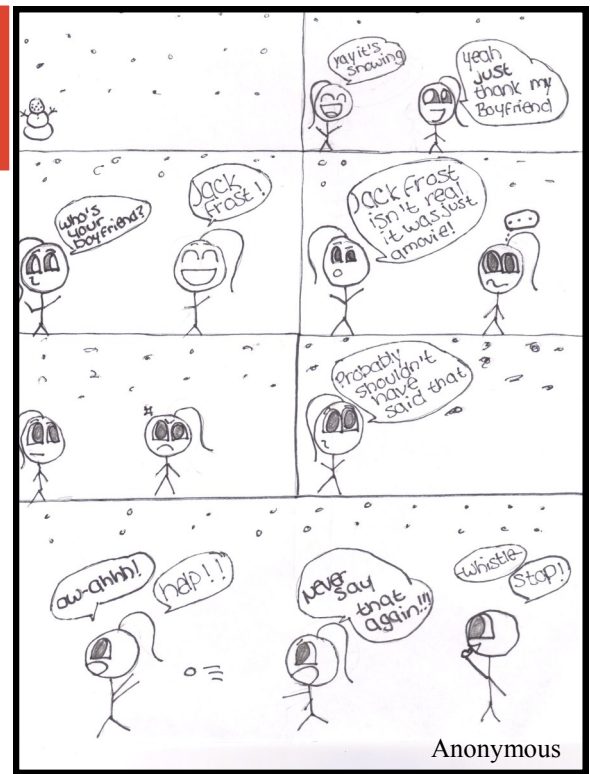
tion is to get skinnier. Just remember, you're perfect the way you are.

Jose Columna, eighth grade, said his resolution is to get highest honors this year and to eat less because "most people expect this from me."

Mrs. Mooney, seventh grade math, said her resolution is to continue to maintain a happy and healthy lifestyle, both at work and at home.

Mrs. Sallemi, eighth grade math, said she wants to drink more water.

Thanks to all students and teachers who shared their New Year's resolutions with us. We hope you achieve your goals this coming year. If you haven't thought of a resolution yet, you still have time before the ball drops. Happy 2013!



*Merry
Christmas*

*From the Staff
of
The Castle Caller*

The Castle Caller Staff

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