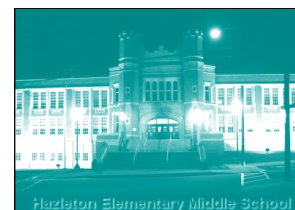


The Castle Caller

A Student Newspaper

HAZLETON ELEMENTARY MIDDLE SCHOOL



December 2010
Holiday Edition

Spelling Bee Winners to Compete in Districts

By Jessica Turitto

The annual spelling bee just buzzed by last month. I had the lucky opportunity of interviewing all the winners. The sixth grade winner was **Rashawn Walker** and the first runner up was **Kyle Plesh**. The middle school winner was **Chris Belles** and the runner up was **Ambar Veras**. I even had the opportunity to talk to the mastermind behind the whole event, Mrs. Kelly.

Q: Were you nervous while you were spelling the words?

Walker: "A little."

Plesh: "Yeah, kinda."

Belles: "Not really, until the last word."

Veras: "I was afraid I was going to mess up."

Q: Were the words easy or hard?

Walker: "Some were hard, I guess."

Plesh: "Some of them were hard."

Belles: "They were easy for me."

Veras: "Some were easy and some were

hard."

Q: How long did you study?

Walker: "I studied hard for two days."

Plesh: "...a little bit."

Belles: "I didn't study at all, so I got lucky."

Veras: "About 10-20 minutes a couple of nights."

Q: What was the first feeling or thought you had when you won?

Walker: "Surprised!"

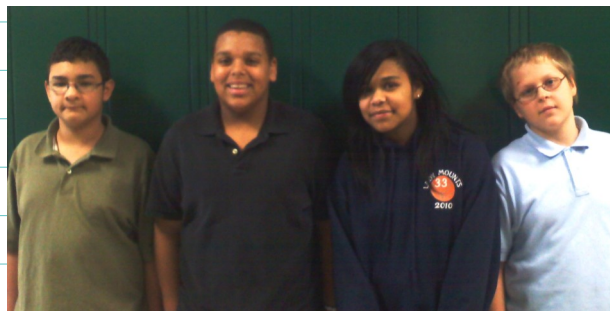
Plesh: "Very surprised - confused, like they made a mistake."

Belles: "It felt good to win."

Veras: "I was so surprised, then excited."

Q: Do you think you will win districts?

Walker: "Not sure."



2010-2011 HEMS Spelling Bee Winners (pictured from left): Rashawn Walker, Kyle Plesh, Ambar Veras, and Christopher Belles

Plesh: "Hopefully, but I don't think so."

Belles: "It would be so cool if I did."

Veras: "Maybe, but probably not."

All four students said their parents were either happy, encouraging or both.

When I met with Mrs. Kelly I had a few questions about how she runs the spelling bee.

Q: What does it take to host the spelling bee?

Mrs. Kelly: "It takes patience and lots of coordination."

Q: Is it easy hosting this competition?

Mrs. Kelly: "It's fairly easy, you just have to know what you are doing."

Q: Do you like it?

Mrs. Kelly: "Yes, it's always fun. A great experience and new challenge every year. I would like to see more students in middle school participate. I've had great spellers in the past and I don't understand why those kids don't participate."

The next step for the winners is the district competition. This will be held sometime in January at West Hazleton Middle School. We hope they buzz their way to the top!

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Mounts Team Hungry for Championship

By Leandris Reyes and Jaicha Valerio



This year will be an interesting season for the boys' basketball team. We have many new players from other schools and returning players from last year. Many of us have faith in our team to lead our school to the championship game. A lot of new and returning faces will be seen on the court. Congratulations to all of the students who made the team this year! Below is the list of the players of the 2010-2011 HMS Mounts.

Seventh grade players include: Adrian Valerio, Dante D'Amato, Joseph Kramer, Joseph Machado, Adolfo Cervantej, Jose Reyonoso, Isaiah Santiago, Elvin Berroa, Yasel Alcantara, Mitchell Moran, Johnny Peppen, Austin Alwine and Julio Arizmendi.

Eighth grade players include: Richardson Calderon, Nick Cibulish, Kevin Lantigua, Peter Lombardo, Angel Lopez, Jhon Martinez, Matthew Michelin, Elio Osorio, Mike Pollock, Ernesto Quinones, David Torres, Antonio Tyler and Max Valerio.

We had interviewed the 8th grade boys' basketball coach, Mr. Pollock, and a few of our players on what to expect for the 2011 boys' season.

Q: How do you feel about the new team you have this year?

Coach: "I'm very excited we

have a lot of good players coming back from last year, and we acquired some good talent. They are going to help the team out a lot this year."

Q: What are your expectations for the upcoming season?

Coach: "Our first goal is to stay healthy, make the playoffs and hopefully advance to the championship game and win it."

Q: Were you a coach before coming to HEMS?

Coach: "Yes, I coached the 8th grade girls' basketball team at Holy Family for six years."

Q: What led you to become a basketball coach?

Coach: "I played basketball all my life ever since I was a kid and although I might be too old to play now, I'm still competitive and enjoy coaching."

Next was 8th grade basketball player **Kevin Lantigua**.

Q: Do you think the Mount's will make it to the championship game and win this year?

Lantigua: "Yes because we have a very good team this year. We have very good players and a great coach!"

Q: What motivated you to become a member of the team?

Lantigua: "What motivated me was being able to play on the Mount's basketball court and wanting to win the championship game for our school."

Lastly, we interviewed 8th grader **David Torres**.

Q: What do you think about the

other schools' teams?

Torres: "They're whack because all the good players from last year left the teams."

Q: Which team do you think would be the hardest to defeat?

Torres: "Freeland because their players are really good."

It looks like this season is going to be filled with thrill and excitement. Luckily, the 2011 Mounts are very dedicated to the team. Hopefully this will be the Castle's lucky year to win championships! Support and cheer for our team at the games!

Upcoming Mounts Games

Tuesday, December 21

MMI @ Hazleton

Tuesday, January 4

Hazleton @ Valley

Thursday, January 6

Hazleton @ Freeland

Monday, January 10

Drums @ Hazleton

Thursday, January 13

West Hazleton @ Hazleton

Tuesday, January 18

Hazleton @ Holy Family

Thursday, January 20

Hazleton @ MMI

Monday, January 24

Hazleton @ Heights- Terrace

Thursday, January 27

Freeland @ Hazleton

Monday, January 31

Valley @ Hazleton

Thursday, February 3

Hazleton @ West Hazleton

Monday February 7

Heights- Terrace @ Hazleton

Thursday February 10

Drums @ Hazleton

Wednesday February 14

Holy Family @ Hazleton

Who Do You Wish Merry Christmas To?

By Kevin Harry and Emmanuel Amancio*

Who do you want to wish Merry Christmas to?

Alibel Pena said she wanted to wish a Merry Christmas to everyone "Because I want everyone to have a happy time at Christmas."

Alvin Contreras wants to wish a Merry Christmas to his mom and dad "Because I love them."

Jordan Scarcella said, "My family because they are special to me."

Felecia Dubesky wishes her friend Crystal a Merry Christmas because she is her best friend.

Jose Delgabillo said, "My family and friends because they take care of me."

Many eighth graders also had warm wishes to send to their loved ones.

"I want to wish Merry Christmas to my friends because they are important to me," said **Keefer Ngirngesechei**.

Patrick Pilati said, "My mom. She is very special."

Max Valerio sends wishes to his grandma because he said they are really close.

Yamilex Rodriguez said, "My friends because they are really nice and I want them to have a Merry Christmas."

Anthony Perno sends Christmas wishes out to his mom and **Carolina Madera** sends them out to her family.

Be sure to tell your friends and loved ones Merry Christmas at this special time of year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all teachers and students at Hazleton Elementary Middle School.



The Best Christmas Present I Ever Got Was...

By Moriah Graaf, Lauren Merola, Jennifer Alberto, & Christley Mena

Ho, ho, ho! It's Christmas time! Time to let your present shine, for us to show, so let it snow! Every year we get lots of gifts, but certain ones we remember forever.

Emanuel Amancio and **Jordan Scarcella** were surprised with X-Box 360's in 2009.

Brianna Corra got her dog, Casey, in 2005, and Lily Evans remembers getting her puppy in 2001.

Kevin Lantigua got a big screen TV, while **Aurora Savadge** got a Nintendo DS, both just last year.

Elvin Berroa got 2 pairs of Jordans and 1 pair of Nikes, all last year. He was thrilled.



Amber Veras hopes to get a big gift this year - a laptop!

Teachers had special Christmas memories too! **Mrs. Sallemi's** special gift in 1983 was having her son, Marc.

Miss Andrews, one of the 8th grade art teachers, got a car in 2008.

Mrs. Dudeck always remembers the special ornament she received from her mom in 1981.

In 1997, **Mrs. Molosky**

said her husband proposed!

Mr. Schifano received his prized Joe Paterno cut-out in 2004 direct from Santa Claus. He said it was very memorable because Santa slipped off the roof and dropped the cut-out in the snow with a bow!

Mr. Tutko received a 1968 Lionel train set that he puts under his tree every year. He said it still looks brand new, like the day he got it.

Finally, **Mrs. Kelly** had a Christmas baby in 1980!

Whatever your special gift was, remember how it made you feel. Most importantly, remember who gave it to you and give them something special this Christmas.

Mounts Corner Christmas Chat

By Joanny Jimenez and Pricilla Rodriguez*

During the holiday season many gifts are bought to be given or received at Christmas time. We went around the school to interview students and ask them which they enjoy more - giving gifts or receiving them.

Most of the students chose receiving, because seriously, who doesn't enjoy receiving gifts. However, there were some students who said they enjoyed giving gifts more. Remember, Christmas is the season of giving. It's about making someone else feel happy and loved.

Here is what those who chose receiving had to say.

Elyssa Pizarro, 7th grade, said, "I like receiving because then I



know they care..."

Leandris Reyes, 8th grade, replied, "I like receiving because I get what I want and I have money..."

Pilar Perez said she also likes receiving because she doesn't like spending her money.

Sandy Nikolic, 7th grade, said, "I like receiving because my parents get me what I want."

Finally, **Joseph**

giving because I find it kind of fun."

Diana Colon, 7th grade, said, "I like giving because I like seeing other people smile."

Emanuel Aman-cio, eighth grade, replied, "I enjoy giving because I like making my friends and family happy."

"I like giving because it's nice to see them happy," said **Janellys Smith**, seventh grade.

Christmas time is meant to let people know how much they mean to you and one tradition used around the world to express our love is gift giving. As some of our "receiving" people said, it makes you feel special to get a gift!

Machado and Keyla

Perez both agreed receiving was more fun. **Machado** said, "I like receiving because it makes me feel special."

Now for those generous people who prefer giving at Christmas time instead of receiving, we want to let everyone know why they feel the way they do.

Seventh grader, Franddy Carrea had this to say, "I like

MOUNTS CORNER CHAT

By: Joanny Jimenez and Pricilla Rodriguez

During the holiday season, which do HMS students enjoy more - GIVING or RECEIVING Christmas presents?

25% Giving
75% Receiving

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

2011 New Year's Resolutions

By Keyla Perez and Elyssa Pizarro*

At the end of every year, we make resolutions, or promises, to ourselves not to repeat mistakes we have made. HEMS students are sharing their 2011 resolutions with us.

The following 7th graders had this to say: **Carlos Hernandez** wants to change his attitude, while **Julio Arizmendi** wants to get better grades to be smarter. **Mineylie Ramos**, **Brian Ventura**, **Adrian Valerio**, and **Alvin Barrero** want to change everything from their hair color, year, to height or lips. Re-member, resolutions are about setting goals for yourself or changing bad habits, not about changing your appearance.

Eighth grader **Lucy Rojas** has a great resolution. She wants to get contacts and become a better basketball player in the new year. Some of the teachers have resolutions already set for 2011. **Mrs. Shebelcok**, a seventh grade teacher, said, "By March, I want to be able to complete a 5K race without having to stop to walk."

Miss Leonard's goal is to get a cheer-leading squad with 20 girls in 2011. Finally, **Mrs. Johanssen** jokingly said, "I want a friend that isn't cardboard." Make a resolution and stick to it in 2011!

*Merry Christmas
And
Happy 2011
from the staff at
The Castle Caller*



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Miss Leonard

(* denotes Miss Leonard assisted with article)

PHOTOGRAPHY

Mr. Jadush ▪ Miss Leonard

REPORTERS

Kevin Harry ▪ Jessica Turitto ▪ Lauren Merola ▪ Elyssa Pizarro
Keyla Perez ▪ Pricilla Rodriguez ▪ Emmanuel Amancio ▪ Joanny Jimenez ▪
Moriah Graaf ▪ Jaicha Valerio ▪ Leandris Reyes ▪ Jennifer Alberto ▪ Christly Mena