



The Castle Caller

A Student Newspaper

March 2012
Spring Edition

HAZLETON ELEMENTARY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Cheerleaders, Student Council and Sixth Grade Service Club Make \$1700 Donation to Fight Cancer

By Vivian Ruiz and Tori Vache'

Many people around the world are suffering from cancer. They wonder if they'll live to see tomorrow, if a cure will be found, or if they'll be able to afford future treatment.

The student council with Ms. DeLuca, the 6th grade community service club with Mrs. Cain, and the Mounts cheerleaders with coach Mrs. O'Donnell donated a combined \$1700 to the American Cancer Society to help fight this terrible disease and hopefully find a cure.

Q: Why do your clubs donate to the American Cancer Society?

Cain: Everyone knows someone who was touched by it somehow.

O'Donnell: We find it be a very important cause because a lot of people are suffering from cancer in the Hazleton area.

Q: How do you feel helping this cause?

DeLuca: The student council is very happy to make this donation to this



HEMS student reps present check to ACS

worthwhile cause.

Cain: Good...it makes you feel like you're helping someone else.

O'Donnell: Glad that we can give something back to the community.

The student council donated \$500, the 6th grade community service gave \$300, and the cheerleaders gave \$900 all raised through fundraising. The students presented their donations live on television at the telethon on February 18th. The telethon was held at the Laurel Mall.

These teachers and students are making a difference by donating to the American Cancer Society and you should too. Whether it's donating yourself or asking friends and family to donate to the ACS, you can help change someone's life.

PSSA'S Are Almost Here

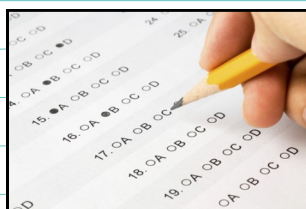
By Audrey Castillo and Kendra Snyder*

The PSSA's are almost here. The reading and math tests begin on March 12th so everyone needs to start getting ready. We have some tips to help you do well on the test.

The following are five tips that will help you achieve success on the test.

Tip 1: When you are doing the multiple choice test, eliminate the silly answers by crossing them out.

Tip 2: Underline key words in the questions.



For example, when working on math problems, underline words like sum, difference, product, etc.

Tip 3: Check all of your work on the test and make sure you didn't miss any questions.

Tip 4: Get a good night's sleep so you won't be tired when you

are taking the test.

Tip 5: Eat a well-balanced breakfast because it is the most important meal of the day. Plus no one can think clearly when their stomach is growling.

We hope these tips will help you do well on the test. Try to relax and not get stressed out. If you do your best and remember to use all the tips our teachers have taught us, everything will be fine.

Good luck to all students taking the PSSA!

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Cheerleaders Compete at Penn State

By Elyssa Pizarro, Pricilla Rodriguez & Mrs. O'Donnell

The Hazleton Middle School mountaineer cheerleaders competed at the Keystone State Cheerleading competition at Penn State University in State College, PA on Saturday, January 28.

The squad competed with a two and a half minute routine in the large junior high non-tumbling category. Prior to the competition, the squad showcased their routine for the sixth graders at the Castle.

Some of the sixth graders were asked what they thought of the routine. **Kaitlyn Verbitsky** said, "The cheerleaders did an excellent job."

Pamela Rodriguez said the routine was very good and it made her want to be a cheerleader. It also does not hurt that her sister is a captain on the squad this year.

The team was awarded with a first place trophy in their category. They even beat out State College Middle School, the hometown team. According to coach Mrs. O'Donnell, this was the first time a cheerleading squad from the Castle competed at this level.

We had the opportunity to talk with Mrs. O'Donnell after the competition..

Q: How do you think your squad did?

Mrs. O: They did excellent. Their routine was full of energy and excitement. They worked very hard for a long time. Our season begins in May after the squad is picked and we are essentially preparing for everything from the first practice.

Q: Who are the judges?

Mrs. O: The judges are UCA (United Cheerleading Association) members. They are or were professional cheerleaders at one time so they know what to look for.

Q: How was your score?

Mrs. O: The judges are very tough. They don't let anything slide. Even though we won, we can always be doing things to improve.

We also spoke with some of the members of the squad, eighth grader **Linda Gutierrez** and seventh grader **Leyole Garcia**, to see what the experience was like for them.

Q: How did you feel when you saw the other cheerleaders in the competing squads?

Garcia: I felt nervous.

My mouth even went dry.

Gutierrez: I felt nervous but excited at the same time. I was shaking but I had a feeling we were going to win.

Additionally the cheerleaders performed their routine live on WYLN for the American Cancer Society telethon. They were awarded the Mary Lee Yemona award for raising the most money out of all the cheerleading squads that donated to ACS.

It was a very successful year for the Mountaineer cheerleading squad. The girls won several awards to add to the cheerleading trophy case and continue to make a name for themselves in the school district and the community as a very talented and well-mannered group of young ladies.

Mrs. O'Donnell wants all the squad members to know how proud she is of them for their dedication and achievement this year and is very sad to see the eighth graders move on.

Unfortunately all good things must come to an end. A new squad will be selected in May and the process will begin again.

Any sixth or seventh grader who is interested in cheering for the Mounts cheerleaders must listen to the announcements in April or May to find out when tryouts will be held.

Tryouts are at the Ninth Grade Center and are three days long. To be a cheerleader in the HASD you must be available during the summer months to practice. Therefore anyone going away for the summer will not be eligible.



2011-2012 Hazleton Mountaineer Cheerleading Squad at the Keystone State Cheerleading competition at Penn State University in State College, PA

The Castle's Newest Addition—DRAMA CLUB!

By Jennifer Alberto

It's the middle of the school year and the school is buzzing about our new club - the drama club. This is the first time we have a chance to have a drama club because our auditorium wasn't finished, but now it finally is and everyone is ready to show their stuff off. The drama club is run by 8th grade language arts teacher Ms. Rimshaw and 7th grade reading teacher Mrs. Dudeck.

This year's drama club has the lucky opportunity to be the first student group to perform in our brand new auditorium. So come out to support our new club.

Q: Why did you start the drama club here at Hazleton Middle School?

Rimshaw: We wanted to use the new auditorium and it was a chance for the 7th and 8th graders to show off their talents.

Dudeck: This is the first time we had a chance to and we have many students who want to do it.

Q: What play are you going to be performing for the students, teachers and parents?

Rimshaw: We are going to be performing *The Hysterical History of the Trojan War* by D.M. Larson. We may be performing it in April.

Q: How do you think the cast is doing?

Rimshaw: I don't think they are nervous. They are still trying to learn their lines.

Q: Are you going to be performing the play in front of the school before opening night?

Rimshaw: I would like to perform for the 5th and 6th graders one day, the 7th and 8th graders another day, and a night for parents.



The cast of *The Hysterical History of the Trojan War* poses for a group photo outside of the auditorium in February.

The Cast

Paris - Johnny Pepen
Helen - Andrea Rubilotti
Cassandra - Christley Mena
Apollo - Jose Columna
Athena - Gianna Tuggle
Hector - Sarah Gordineer
Odysseus - Gabriella Smith
Guard - Randy Pineda
Hera - Vivian Ruiz
Zeus - Leiry Rumaldo
Achilles - Carlos Moldan
Ajax - Theanny Velasco
Agamemnom - Victoria Gobeo
Menelaus - Sami Gable
Posiedon - Gabriella Diaz
Homer - Angie Zoquier
Patroclus - Maria Torres
Trojan Soldiers - Shatasia Thompson, Albert Lithgrow, Rebecca Schell, Gabriella Tomax, Angel Card, Franchesca Rivera, and Ashley Acosta
Sparta Soldiers - Felicia Dubesky, Darrys Martinez, Yulianna Martinez, Jarielys Castillo, Shadira Rodriguez, Maria Torres, Dalesa Mendoza, Sarah Williams, and Georgina Machesko
Announcers - Junior Arias, Julissa Herrera, and Kathleen Williams
Choreographer: Kayla Wiseman
Homerettes: Theresa Schreffler (Lead), Bianca Pizarro, Yuliana Martinez, Yasmina Dzairi, Jaileen Cintron, Alissa Garcia, Kendra Snyder, Jarielys Castillo, Natalie Gonzalez, and Jennifer Guzman
Singers: Destiny Henry, Isis Torres, Jennifer Alberto, and Alonna Weaver

Valentine's Day Dance

By Keyla Perez*

Hazleton Elementary Middle School has had several Valentine's dances before, but none were as interesting as this last one.

Tickets were sold the whole week of the dance, even Friday. The student council sold 150 tickets altogether and raised \$700. The tickets cost \$4.00 each. The student council members sold the tickets in the morning during homeroom. They said it was worth paying that amount because they got good pizza, brownies, chips, and water. Friday was a busy day for the student council.

The dance had music like R&B, hip hop, and slow songs for the couples out there. The DJ was Dante Mariano from Platinum Productions.

The DJ played good songs and had the kids dancing. Many teachers and students were there. There were more than 130 students there this year. There was food such as pizza, water, brownies, and chips served.

Eighth grader **Danielle Provenzano** had this to say, "The dance was very fun and interesting. The



people were dancing like crazy. I went with my best

friend Brie-Anne Wentz."

Carlos Cruz said, "The dance was fantastic."

Eighth grader **Destiny**

Nika commented, "The dance was fun. I went with Selena Sanchez." While

Selena Sanchez said, "The dance was pretty fun, I went with Destiny Nika!"

Ashley Land said "The best dance ever. The best

thing about it was the cupid shuffle because every one did it together."

A special thank you goes out to Miss DeLucca and all the student council members who helped make the dance possible.

Based on the comments from everyone interviewed, it seems like it was a lot of fun.

If you have never attended a dance, don't be afraid. You don't need a date. Just come with your friends. It's a fun night of dancing, talking and hanging out with your friends!

Farewell Eighth Grade

By Christley Mena and Vianny Rojas*

This has been a very fun season for all our fantastic basketball players and cheerleading squad members. We were wondering how they felt about the sports season ending, as well as the eighth grade year.

Pricilla Rodriguez, captain of the cheerleaders, said she had a lot of fun on the squad, but she will not be trying out for the ninth grade team because she is moving out of Hazleton.

Malena Gallucci, captain of the cheerleaders, said she liked getting to know all the new people on the team and she will be trying out next year so wish her good luck!

Cheerleader Vianny Rojas said she had fun this year and she will be trying out for the high school because she worked really

hard for two years and doesn't want all her hard work to go to waste.

Christley Mena said this was the best year and she wishes all the seventh graders luck next year. She plans to try out for the ninth grade team.

Elyssa Pizarro said she loved being on the squad but she will not try out for the ninth grade team because she misses out on a lot of school work.

Aidalis Simet, Crismery Paredes and Audrey Castillo all said they had fun with the girls but they are going to the DR for the summer and will not be able to try out for the high school team.

Kayla Wiseman said she liked meeting new friends and seeing herself improve her skills. She is sad about leaving the squad. Her fu-

ture plans were not mentioned.

Finally, Michelle Stojkov said she liked learning all new materials and watching everybody perform new skills. She plans to pursue soccer in high school.

On to our awesome boy's basketball team and their future plans for their high school years. Jose Cabrera said he liked playing (basketball) this year and he's hoping to make the team next year.

Jose Reynoso said his favorite game this season was against Heights-Terrace. He liked being on the team and he plans to try out next year.

Ismael Santos said he had fun with everybody on the team this year. He did not mention his future plans.

Isaiah Santiago, Tyler Tallerico, Johnny Pepen and Dante D'amato all have plans to try out next year because they enjoyed their experiences this year playing ball at the Castle.

A farewell ceremony was held on February 9 at the final boy's basketball home game. Eighth grade players and cheerleaders were announced and escorted to center court by either a family member or a teacher special to them. All athletes were recognized for their hard work this year. The cheerleaders were awarded with individual trophies and balloons, while the basketball players were given certificates and a future pizza party to be held in their honor given by their coaches Mr. Pollock and Mr. Leshcko. (See p. 5 for farewell photos.)

Mount's Corner Chat

By Julissa Herrera

Since the PSSA tests are coming up, a survey was conducted about which PSSA test students found the hardest. Fifty seventh graders and fifty eighth graders were surveyed. In the end, even though it was close, most students thought the reading section was the hardest PSSA test.

Seventh grader **Selena Sanchez** chose the reading test. She said, "I don't like to write."

Anthony Palaygi, seventh grade, said, "Math because I have a problem with reading numbers."

Eighth grader **Olivia Kokinda** said, "Reading because it puts me to sleep."

Jordi Soto, seventh grade, said he had a hard time with the reading section.

Rebecca Schell, eighth grade, chose reading too. She said it was "because of the essays."

Trevor McDonough, eighth grade, said math was hard for him too. Although his explanation was "I don't eat breakfast so my brain is tired."

In conclusion, the read-

MOUNT'S CORNER CHAT

By: Julissa Herrera

Which PSSA test do you find to be the hardest?

52% READING
48% MATH

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

ing section seems to be the hardest for most students. It's important to begin the test with a good attitude so pay attention in class, study hard, eat a good breakfast, and get a good night's sleep.

What's Happening?!



Student council and sixth grade community service club members make a donation to the American Cancer Society live on television at the Laurel Mall.

8th grade cheerleaders pose with farewell gifts.



Coach Pollock recognizes his 8th grade players at a farewell ceremony held on February 9, 2012.



The Cat in the Hat read a poem to 3rd thru 6th grade students on March 2, 2012 at the Read Across American program. HEMS celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday with community readers and the kickoff to PSSA's.

Bee Update

By Vivian Ruiz and
Tori Vache**

The district spelling bee was held at West Hazleton Elementary Middle School on January 4, 2012. Unfortunately, the winners of the district bee were not from our school. Two sixth graders from Drums Elementary won and will be advancing to regionals.

However, the outcome is not completely bleak for the Castle. It was explained at the district bee that the student from each school who stayed in the competition the longest would also get to compete in the regionals competition. The student from our school who is moving on is Tori Vache'.

Congratulations to Tori and to all the students who competed. The regional bee will be held on Sunday, March 11, 2012 at 1:00 pm at the Woodlands Inn and Resort in Plains Township, Wilkes-Barre.

Mrs. Rimshaw's advice is to "Study hard."

Good luck!

Alumni Spotlight is a new feature *The Castle Caller* will be trying out where we spotlight an HEMS graduate to find out what they are doing now that they have ventured on to high school. Many of their past teachers and younger friends may lose contact with them and become curious about how they are making out in their high school career.

Former HMS Mounts cheerleader **Kyla Osadche** will be our first feature for Alumni Spotlight. Kyla graduated last year and is currently in 9th grade.

Continuing to pursue her desire with cheerleading, Kyla tried out for the Cougar team and made the freshman squad. She has been working extremely hard with her new cheer team

Mountaineer Alumni Spotlight



Osadche, in 2011, at a Mounts basketball game at the Castle

Kyla feels that HEMS has made her a better person. She misses her teachers because they impacted her life and she learned a lot from them.

Kyla does visit the Castle from time to time when she helps the Mounts cheerleaders practice. She

practicing several times a week, cheering at 9th grade games and competing in various competitions around the northeast.

The most valuable lesson she has learned so far is "if you work hard

you can accomplish your goals!"



Osadche, in January, at PSU competition with cougar squad and Mrs. O.

Alonna Weaver conducted a phone interview with Osadche and contributed information to make this article possible.

Editor-in-Chief

Mrs. O'Donnell

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

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