

# The Castle Caller



FREE

A Student Newspaper

Spring Edition 2016

## Gifted Students Win at Computer Comp

By Marcus Knecht and Brayan Pena  
Junior Reporters

Mrs. Sharp took three of her eighth grade gifted students, Matthew Fisher, Ryan Fisher, and Verina Gad, to compete in a video animation competition at Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18. The students worked very hard on their computer project. It all paid off in the end with them ending up in first place with their claymation, stop-motion video.

We interviewed all three students and they responded in the same way that they worked on this project - as a team!

### Did you think you were going to win this competition?

The three winners said they thought they had a chance to win something because they worked together as a team to create a video they thought was unique and had a funny twist at the end.

### How did you come up with the theme for your project?

The group agreed that at first they weren't really sure what to make the



From left: Eighth graders Ryan Fisher, Verina Gad, and Matthew Fisher hold their first place awards.

video about until they saw a blue paper that inspired them to do an ocean theme.

### Was it hard to create the video?

The group felt the short film was a challenge because they had to use technology, teamwork, problem solving, and a lot of patience. This was

a new learning experience for them because they never made a video before using claymation, stop-motion video.

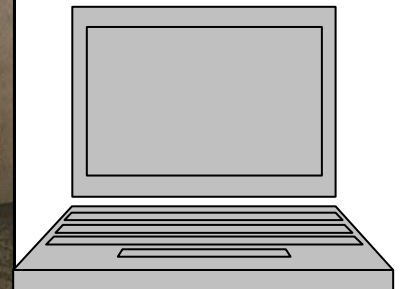
Matthew Fisher, Ryan Fisher, and Verina Gad had to put their minds together to complete this project.

Due to the fact that they won first place, there's another competition ahead of them. In

May, they will be moving to the state level at Dickinson College.

*The Castle Caller* would like to wish them the best of luck.

*Please note: HEMS students had the opportunity to view this video project during the Music In Our Schools/PSSA rally on March 23, 2016.*



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# FEATURES

## PSSA Testing Time is Here Again

By Luis Rojas  
Junior Reporter\*

PSSA testing time is here. Some students tend to get worried about the tests, while others don't. *The Castle Caller* asked sixth through eighth graders at HEMS how they feel about the tests and if they have any advice to pass along.

Seventh grader **Diana Hernandez** feels worried but confident. She said, "Teachers have done a great job teaching."

**Ethan Couccio**, seventh grade, is worried about the reading portion because he doesn't do well on that part.

Eighth grader **Gabriel Fabien** is not worried at all. He said he studied enough.

**Gabriella Crump**, eighth grade, said she hopes to get advanced. She is worried she will get basic. Her advice to others is to study hard to score advanced or proficient.

Sixth grader **Ana Madera** is very worried. She said, "I already forgot what we did so far this year." She said she feels like does not know enough.

**Keano Cordero**,

sixth grade, said he is worried about where he will be placed next year depending on the grade he gets on his PSSA.

**Yaire Cabreja**, sixth grade, said she is not worried. She feels she has learned a lot this year.

**Isaiah Garcia**, sixth grade, is worried because he doesn't know if he is going to get advanced or not.

**Katie Anziani**, sixth grade, said, "I don't know if I am going to fail or pass the test." She is also concerned.

**Tianna Contreras**, sixth grade, is worried about what will happen if she doesn't score advanced.

Sixth grader **Brian Castelnoble** said, "I am worried because it is a really hard test and I don't know if I am going to pass or not."

As you can see, many students are concerned about their scores on the PSSA test. Students can receive advanced, proficient, basic, or below basic. The most important point to remember is to try your best!



Winners of The Next Picasso Essay Contest pose with their finished paintings entitled "Girl (or Boy) in the Mirror" on Friday, March 18, 2016. Students were selected based on a writing essay stating why they should be chosen to participate in this event.

# CLUB NEWS

## Ecology Club Member - Keep America Beautiful

By Samuel Figueroa  
Senior Reporter

April 22nd is Earth Day. There are many ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle in our own community. The ecology club teaches students some ways to help preserve our planet. For example, you can reuse a water bottle or an old can to grow a flower. You can simply pick up trash you see lying outside. There are many ways to keep our environment beautiful. Here are a few tips I came up with for you to try:

- Instead of throwing away your notebook at the end of the year, go through it and collect all the unused paper to use the next year.
- Decorate old folders and binders to make them look like new and reuse them the following school year. All you need is

some decorative tapes to express your style in different colors and patterns. You can also use glitter and stickers.

- Don't throw away old clothes. Donate them to the needy or your local thrift shop. This act of reusing will also benefit someone in need.
- After you are done drinking a soda, don't just throw the can in the trash. It takes hundreds of years for it to decompose. To prevent this from happening, use different trash cans to sort and recycle trash.

Here are some other tips from ecology club members:

- It is good to learn recycling and community conserving methods



- Reduce the use of non-reusable resources and other environmental methods.
- Ride your bike or carpool with others to help keep the air clean and free from pollution.
- Get a reusable water bottle so you don't have to buy bottled water and throw the bottle away.
- Plant a tree.
- Turn off the lights when you leave a room.
- Shut down your computer at the end of the day.
- Unplug electronic devices before going to sleep.
- Do not let the water run while you brush your teeth.

Follow these helpful tips in order to do your part in keeping America and our planet beautiful.

## S.A.D.D

By Rubith Diaz and Kaleigh Frederick  
Junior Reporters

S.A.D.D. stands for Students Against Destructive Decisions. This club dedicates its time to teaching children not to do harmful things, like take drugs or drink alcohol.

The club also stresses the importance of not texting while driving, not drinking and driving, and not smoking.

Club advisor Mr. Hearne has club members work on projects

about these dangers to present to elementary classes.

Club members will also participate in the March Out

of Darkness walk, an event to bring awareness to depression and suicide.

**Amaury Fernandez**, seventh grade, said his project is on stress and anxiety. He said, "Stress or anxiety could lead to

**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
JOIN  
SADD**

suicide or anger."

Seventh grader **Diana Hernandez**

plans to focus on mental health as well.

She said, "Without your brain, you can't be you."

**Jose Alberto**, seventh grade, is basing his project on drunk driving because of the risks and consequences you can face. "Some of the conse-

quences I am going to teach elementary kids are that you can get arrested or even get into a terrible accident."

Finally, **Eddie Linker**, seventh grade, is going to teach elementary students about the consequences of doing drugs.

"Some consequences I am going to be teaching are how harmful they are to your body to prevent them from even trying it."

# EVENTS

## Middle School Cheerleading Tryouts

Middle school cheerleading tryouts will be held in June. Any 6th or seventh grade student trying out for cheerleading will need a physical exam after June 1st, but before tryouts. No one will be permitted to tryout unless they have their physical examination completed and paperwork handed in.

### **OPTIONS:**

A FREE SPORTS CLINIC will be held at HAHS. Listen to announcements for the date. Forms for the clinic will be available in the nurse's office.

Physicals at PRIVATE DOCTORS must be done AFTER June 1st to count towards the 2016-17 school year. It is recommended students attend the sports clinic, or schedule an appointment with their doctor for the first week of June. Those who do not have their medical forms filled out will not be able to participate in cheerleading tryouts. See the nurse for additional information.

## PTA News

By Kaitlyn Roskos and Jerry Marcalle  
Junior Reporters\*

It's time to get excited! We are having the following events at our school during the month of May: A spring Fun(d) Walk, the annual Students vs. Teachers Basketball game, and field trips for all grade levels.

The Fun(d) Walk is a great way to get outside and enjoy the weather, as well as help the PTA raise money to pay for the upcoming field trips.

The Students vs. Teachers Basketball game on May 19th is always an entertaining event. Last year the students took the winning title. This year the teachers will be hungry to win it back. There will be tricky trays and refreshments. All proceeds go towards school field trips.

We hope to see a large turnout for the Fun(d) Walk and the Students vs. Teachers Basketball Game. Dates for both events will be announced soon.

**Editor's note:** The Mounts' Corner Chat poll and article entitled *Do Students Feel Safe Without Metal Detectors* by Maria Jimenez, Nayely Paulino, and Brandy Rodriguez did not make the editorial deadline.

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