

# The Castle Caller

A Student Newspaper

HAZLETON ELEMENTARY MIDDLE SCHOOL



January 2009  
Winter Edition

## HEMS Students Hope for Change

by Barbara Robinson & Katlyn Berry \*



Senate Archive 2005

In 2008 the Presidential election made history by electing the first African American, Barack Obama, as President of the United States. On January 20th, Barack Obama was sworn into office as the 44th President.

We thought we would see how some of the HEMS students were feeling about Obama taking over for President George Bush.

Adriana Ruiz, 8th grade, thinks Obama is

going to be a great President because she believes he will change the world.

"He is going to better our lives so much," said Ruiz.

Desiree Piccola, eighth grade, feels he has a strong enough handle on problems.

She commented, "He is going to be smart about what he does."

Seventh grader Kailey Richie said, "He will make a good President

because he will bring change."

Casmir Dikosky, seventh grade, said, "I think Obama will be a good President because he is smart and he knows what he is doing."

Finally, it doesn't matter who you supported to be the next President of the United States. This January, Barack Obama is being given the opportunity to fulfill the promises he made to make the USA a better country for all!

## HEMS Favorite Movie Poll Results

by Ashley Oster and Kelsey Whittaker\*

We thought it would be fun to take a poll and ask some students and teachers what their favorite movies are of all time. Below we listed the results. You will see there is a very popular movie amongst the students at HEMS, however the teachers have very different opinions.

### **Eight Grade-**

Rachel Jimenez, Katherine Brea and Lindsey Hetler all agreed that *Twilight* was their favorite movie, while Robyn McA-lareny chose *The Notebook* and Taylor Tarone chose the *Pirates of the Caribbean* movie series.

### **Seventh Grade-**

Brittney Trammel, Landon Leshko and Damion Dentansko selected the thrillers *The Ring*, *Jaws* and *Halloween* as their favorites.

Other seventh grade students selected much more lighthearted movies. Christine Gerhard's favorite is *A Walk to Remember* and Sabrina Molinaro chose *Brother Bear*.

Cartoons are also popular. Bethany Moose enjoys the Disney flick *Finding Nemo* and Maria Scatton picked *Spongebob The Movie*.

### **Sixth Grade-**

Ernesto Quinones loves

### ***Friday the 13th.***

Elizabeth Michalochick loves the movie is *City of Ember*.

### **Faculty-**

6th grade teacher, Mr. Shafer picked *Remember the Titans*.

Physical Education teachers, Mr. Kepp and Mr. Rentschler chose *Rudy* and *Tommy Boy*, respectively.

Mr. O'Donnell, fourth grade, said his favorite movie is *Braveheart*.

Finally, seventh grade Language Arts teacher, Mr. Hearne likes *In the Name of the Father*.

Check out one of these suggestions one night.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

News 1

Sports 2

Features 3

Events 4

Clubs 5

Staff 5

# Boy's Basketball New Season and Coach

By Jayleen Machado and Taylor Tarone

*We interviewed our new eighth grade basketball coach, Mr. Pollock about the upcoming season.*

**Q: What got you interested in basketball?**

**Coach:** I always played my whole life and being a little older, I am still competitive and I want to stay around the game.

**Q: What made you want to coach our team?**



**Pollock**

**Coach:** Well, my wife teaches here and my son goes here as well. I also find the people here to be very nice and I wanted to be a part of the family.

**Q: Since Holy Family Academy's girl's were the champs, do you think you can say the same for us?**

**Coach:** Well, that's our goal this year and because the players have a lot of talent, I think we'll have a chance.

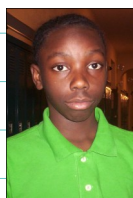
**Q: What do you think about the team members?**

**Coach:** They seem to love basketball. They are very dedicated and they work hard.

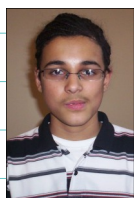
**Q: Are you looking forward to the rest of the season?**

**Coach:** Yes, and I think it is going to be fun until the end.

*We also spoke to seventh grade team members Kennaji Williams and Darrby Fajardo about this year's new coach and basketball season.*



**Williams**



**Fajardo**

**Q: What do you think about your coach?**

**W:** He can be a little aggressive

at times, but he's cool.

**F:** I think he's a good coach and he's pretty cool.

**Q: Do you think it will be a successful season?**

**W:** Yeah, because we have a lot of nice people on our team.

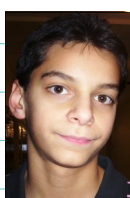
**F:** I think we're going to go to the championship because we are really good.

**Q: Are you pumped to play?**

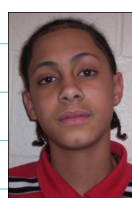
**W:** Yeah, I am excited and happy, but I am a little nervous.

**F:** Yeah, I am pumped to play and I want to see what Heights can do.

*Finally, we interviewed eighth grade players David Mehalick and Billy Santana about their views on the season.*



**Mehalick**



**Santana**

**Q: What do you think about your coach?**

**M:** He's a good coach and I think he will get us to advance in the playoffs. I also think he is an improvement over last year's coach.

**S:** He's a good coach and he also makes us work hard so that we can get into shape. I can't wait to play so that we can get into the championships.

**Q: Do you think it will be a successful season?**

**M:** Probably a successful season because a lot of people have improved since last year and he makes us run a lot. I think this will allow us to run the ball a lot which will make more opportunities to score.

**S:** Yes because we have a lot of good players this year.

**Q: Are you pumped to play?**

## Mountaineer Boy's Basketball Schedule

**M & S:** Yes we are excited!

December 8 – Heights Terrace

December 11 – at Holy Family

December 15 – at W. Hazleton

December 18 – MMI

December 22 – at Valley

January 5 – at Freeland

January 8 – Drums

January 12 – West Hazleton

January 15 – Holy Family

January 20 – at Holy Family

January 22 – at Heights Terrace

January 26 – Freeland

January 29 – Valley

February 2 – at West Hazleton

February 5 – Heights Terrace

February 9 – at Drums

February 12 – Holy Family

Playoff games will be scheduled accordingly

## All I Want(ed) For Christmas

by Katlyn Berry & Michelle Gheorge\*

Before Christmas, student journalists asked some teachers and students what gift they were really hoping for this year. When we returned from break, we followed up with them to see if they actually got what they wanted.

**Mr. Schifano** wanted Mr. Hudock to be more like Bill Nye the Science Guy and to stop cruising in his 1979 I-Rock convertible. (NO)

He wanted Mr. Hearne to get those leprechaun socks he wanted. (MAYBE)

Finally he hoped to win the Powerball. (DEFINITELY NO!)

**Mrs. Rodgers** wanted money for her tuition. (NO)

**Mr. Whitley** wanted rest and relaxation and an I-Pod Nano. (NO, but he got an I-Pod Shuffle)

**Mrs. Force** wanted a digital camera. (YES)

**Mariely Parzdes** wanted Mr.

Sedon to be Peter Griffin from *Family Guy* for a day, and also wanted to meet Santa. (NO)

**Suzanna Zamudio**

wanted a new set of gold jewelry. (NO, but she got a gold bracelet.)

**Casimir Ditkosky** wanted a PS3. (YES)

**David Cruz** wanted a Wii. (NO)

**Brittany Trammell** wanted a PS3 and games. (NO)

**Noah Held** wanted a 4,000x360 Microsoft Points 3 month Xbox live card. (YES)

**Brandon Kotansky** wanted Gears of Wars 2 for Xbox. (YES)

**Kailey Richie** wanted Rock Band 1 for Playstation 2. (NO)



**Joe Vanik** wanted a Microsoft Points Card. (YES)

**Allen Culp** wanted a stuffed animal puppy. (NO)

**Kiana Serin** wanted stuff from Hot Topic. (YES)

**Jillian Houser** wanted a Palm Centro cell phone, Pictionary and a sweater from Maurice's. (YES)

**Hector Carabello** wanted a flat screen TV. (YES)

**Wendy Huguin** wanted money and sneakers. (YES and NO)

**Ricky Ruggiero** wanted a new guitar - custom Les-Paul'. (YES)

**Antoinette Lindstorm** wanted a new quad. (YES)

**Christopher Pewlick** wanted an Xbox 360. (?)

**Danielle Forte** wanted an LG Prade cell phone. (NO)

Those of you who did not get what you wanted, perhaps you were on the naughty list!

## Valentine's Dance Excites Students

by Aimee Latella

The Valentine's Dance is around the corner. Students are getting excited. I interviewed four students who were at the Valentine's Dance last year to find out what they thought of it. I also asked four students who did not attend the dance last year what they are expecting from this year's dance. The following are their opinions.

People who were at the dance last year recalled the fun they had.

Justine Rossi said, "I think that the Valentine's Day Dance was great. I love going to the school's dances because they give me a chance to have fun with my friends. They played really good music. The only bad thing was that I had to dance with heels on. That problem was easily solved when I took them off and put on my slippers."

Alaina Kokinda said, "I thought the Valentine's Dance last year was



a lot of fun."

Amanda Gordineer said, "I thought the dance was great. It had a good turn out and I hope more people come next time. I liked the lights a lot and the snacks were good too."

Cheyenne Tuggle said, "I had a good time and a lot of fun with my

friends."

People who were not at the dance last year had this to say.

Paul Petrill said, "I think the Valentine's day dance is going to be great. I also think it's going to be nicely decorated."

Annie Campanaro commented on her hopes for the dance by saying, "I hope it's not going to be plain...I hope it's eye popping and pretty!"

"I think it'll be fun and it's going to be a good time," commented Gage Koval. "I also think the music will be great too!"

Finally Michael Gallagher had this to say, "I think a lot of people will have fun. It will be a great time. It should be very cool!"

The Valentine's Dance will be held on Friday, February 6th, from 6-8 p.m. Tickets must be purchased in advance at school.

## Journalists

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\*Denotes Miss Leonard assisted with the article.

## *Clubs, Clubs Everywhere*

by Jeffrey Bridges

We have some very interesting clubs this year at Hazleton Elementary/Middle School. There is the **Student Council**, which is a group run by Miss DeLucca. It is comprised of students, which were voted in by their peers. They organize all of the dances and other events around the school. They also help with fundraisers and recently had the Cold Hands Warm Hearts drive to get new hats and gloves to give to United Charities.

Another club we have is the **Community Service Club**. Mrs. Cain is in charge of the elementary club, while Mrs. Rimshaw is in charge of the middle school portion. They develop fundraisers (like the recent Hokey Pokey candy sale) to help raise money for the school.

Another club choice is the **Ecology Club** run by Mr. Sedon. Ecology is the study of the Earth and our effect on it. This club will help the community with a project to renovate Altmiller playground. This club also has a Christmas party every December.

Another choice is the school newspaper **The Castle Caller**, run by Miss Leonard. The kids get to act like real reporters doing interviews and writing articles.

A few kids are chosen as editors and they edit and type the reporters' articles. There are also photographers who take pictures. This club meets once a quarter.

In **Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science**, run by Mrs. Planutis, students get to perform science experiments. They write down the results and present their experiment at King's College. If they make it to top three they compete at Penn State in the next level of the competition.

The **National Junior Honor Society** tutors kids Arthur Street, but there is a catch to this club. To stay a member you must have a 93 average.

The **Yearbook Committee**, run by Mr. Whitley, covers school events by taking pictures and putting them in the yearbook.

Finally, the **SADD** club stands for **Students Against Drunk Driving**. This club discusses ways to prevent drunk driving.

With so many choices, there is sure to be a club right for you. These clubs are here for all to join. We hope they make your Castle experience exciting!

## *What is PJAS Anyway?*

by Barbara Robinson\*

What is PJAS?

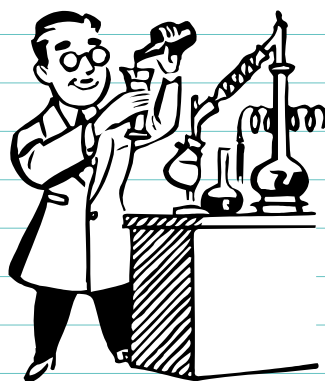
PJAS stands for the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science. This club is run by Mrs. Planutis.

If you are interested in science, then this is the club for you. Students in this club get to work on all kinds of interesting science projects and experiments in Biochemistry, Behavioral Science, Biology, Botany, Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth and Space Science, Ecology, Mathematics, Microbiology, Physics, or Zoology.

First you must come up with a topic. After you determine what experiment to do, Mrs. Planutis will approve it. After you receive your approval, you are free to begin researching your topic.

Eventually you will design and conduct your experiment. You will

analyze your results and then begin putting a speech and presentation together to present your experiment



in competition at King's College in Wilkes Barre, PA.

At districts, you will compete against other students from different surrounding schools who have similar experiments.

If you win, you will get to move on to the state competition, also known as "States."

States is held at Penn State University in University Park Pennsylvania. All district winners from the entire state of Pennsylvania attend the event.

This trip is usually held over a three day period in May. Students get their own room and free food for the whole weekend. It is a lot of fun, but remember you are there for a reason, to compete against the best student scientists in the whole state of Pennsylvania.

If you win States, it is a great honor. You receive either a scholarship, savings bond or cash award.

PJAS is a lot of fun if you like science. If you aren't sure if PJAS is for you, come to a meeting.