



The Castle Caller

FREE

A Student Newspaper

Winter Edition 2020

What a Difference a Year Makes - *The Castle Cafe*

By Evan Tobias
Senior Reporter*

Is there an adult faculty member you know at HEMS who hasn't been to The Castle Café in our school? Last year, the Castle created a brand new option for adults to get coffee or a snack and for students to get work experience.



The Castle coffee cart was born!

In the last year, the coffee cart has grown into a full blown café constructed right into the wall of the front hallway. There has been a dedication featured in *The Standard Speaker*, a mural painted by our own art teacher Mrs. Cunningham, and an expansive menu featuring more options.

Last year, I sat down with learning support teacher Mrs. Balay to discuss the inception of the cart. This year we met again, along with Mrs. Tarone, to discuss its tremendous growth and popularity in the last

year. For starters, the idea of the coffee cart was started by Principal Yourechko. He and some staff members came up with the idea of upgrading the cart to the café. The upgrade was paid for by the cart funds and also had parts donated by others. The café takes inspiration from the Career Center's own café, and the funds received go back to HEMS special education students.

Currently, the café sells coffee in multiple kinds and flavors, snacks, hot chocolate, and tea. Mrs. Tarone and Mrs. Balay said there will be

more items to come, as well. The additions may include more flavors of coffee and tea, as well as smoothies! Since

or idea, the café has seen support from everyone.

The Castle Café is located in the front hallway, on the main floor, by the nurse's office. It is open from 8am-3pm, but it may only be used by adults. All proceeds benefit the special education students at the Castle.



its release as a cart, the café has grown tremendously in the last year due to the support of the faculty, staff, substitute teachers and visitors to the school. Whether it is buying a coffee, donuts, hot chocolate, or even just giving a suggestion

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Winter Means Mounts' Ball

By Mya Parilla
Junior Reporter

It's basketball season! Basketball games are played from December through February, when the championship game is played.

At the Castle, the girls' basketball coach is seventh grade science teacher, Mr. Wilner. I had a chance to sit down with him before the season began.

Q: What are the main things you teach your team?

Wilner: The main thing I teach my team is the basic fundamentals of basketball.

Q: How do you think your team is going to do during this season?

Wilner: I expect them to do well and I expect them to be a play-off team this season. We have a lot of returning players that should know exactly what is expected of them, so we should improve from last season.

I also had the opportunity to speak with seventh grader, Cali Jurus, who is new to the girls' team this year. She plays position 4.

Q: What are your personal goals with this year?

Jurus: My personal goal is to make it to the championship.

Q: Do you plan to con-

tinue playing basketball and trying out for the high school team?

Jurus: Yes, because I have been playing basketball my whole life.

Eighth grade returning player Lucheska Perez plays small forward.

Q: Do you think competition this year is going to be harder or easier?

Perez: I feel that some of the competition is going to be tough, but I trust my teammates to work together and accomplish defeating the opponents.

Q: Do you plan to continue playing basketball and tryout for the high school team?

Perez: I'm planning to train over the summer and improve my skills to tryout for the freshman basketball team in the high school.

The boys' basketball coach is HEMS school interpreter Mr. Silva. Mr. Silva has been coaching the boys' team for the past few years. I spoke to him about his feelings on this year's season.

Q: What is the one thing you tell your team to focus on?

Silva: My goal is for the team to be able to implement what they learn at



From left: Sebastian Nivar and Xavier Brown
HEMS Mounts Basketball Players

practice and to be able to play organized ball.

Eighth grade Mounts player Xavier Brown is a point and shooting guard, while Sebastian Nivar plays the power forward position.

Q: What are you going to miss when the season is over?

Nivar: I am going to miss the practices with Coach Silva.

Q: Do you think your team has a chance this season?

Brown: Yes, we are a pretty good team.

Q: Do you guys plan to continue to play in high school?

Nivar: Yes, I think I have a chance of being on the team.

Brown: Yes...

Boys' Team

Sebastian Nivar
Xavier Brown
Marcos Colon
Brady Deutsch
Jordi Ureña
Jayden Hernandez Baez
Junior Coste
Darlin Comas
Juan Castellanos
Sahirus Martinez Baez
Franchy Santelises
Malakai Borrero
Cameron Clay
Angel Saladin
Michael Smith

Girls' Team

Danna Abreu
Jemily Gonell,
Essence Muniz
Chavely Perez
Lucheska Perez
Josuanny Rodrigues
Elianny Vasquez
Gina Gad
Cali Jurus
Sky Lange-Colas
Yeseilin Gonzalez

Features

Can You See 20/20?

By Anastasia Djordjevic and Yulianis Vela
Junior Reporters*

Out with the old and in with the new. Not only did we enter a new year on January 1, but we also entered into a new decade - the 20s. This is a great time for individuals to look at themselves and make positive changes in their lives.

We, at The Castle Caller, want to know what is your New Year's resolution for the new year and the new decade?

Seventh grader **Emily Colon** said, "I would like to get first honors."

Gina Gad, seventh grade, wants to make money this year. She would like to be able to buy herself things. The first thing she would get is airpods.

Edwardo Estevez, seventh grade, said, "I feel that many people do not like me...so my New Year's resolution is to be a better person."

Seventh grader **Isaiah Perez** said he wants to get better at math and get first honors. This requires hard work!



Chrisyadriel Martinez, seventh grade, said he wants to work out and lose weight.

Lots of HEMS students want to work on their academics in 2020. That's always a great idea. Seventh grader **Jeremy Colon** said he wants to stop staying up late playing video games. Instead he wants to study and get better grades.

Seventh graders **Audrey Gerhart** agrees with Colon. She said, "I want to get on track with good grades in pre-algebra."

Seventh grader,

Darianny Hernandez said, "I want to get better at math."

On the other hand, **Andreuis Jackson**, seventh grade, said, "I want to get a job."

We also asked some of the teachers at HEMS to see what they might want to change for the new year and new decade. This is what they had to say.

Eighth grade science teacher **Mrs. Marszalek** said her resolution is "Not to be a mean teacher."

Ms. Shuliga, elementary computer literacy teacher, said, "I want

to eat less candy."

Mr. Sharp, fifth grade, said, for the new decade he would like "to have good health and a long, happy retirement."

Mrs. Kelly, sixth grade reading teacher, said, "I want to try to do a thoughtful, kind thing for someone every day."

Guidance counselor **Mrs. Planutis** wants to motivate all students at the Castle to join more clubs and sports teams.

No matter what resolution you choose, do your best to see it through!

Castle Christmas Door



Middle School Doors

- 1st Place - Mrs. Provost
- 2nd Place - Mrs. Mooney
- 3rd Place - Mrs. Force
- Honorable Mention - Mr. Wilner and the Cafeteria

Decorating Contest

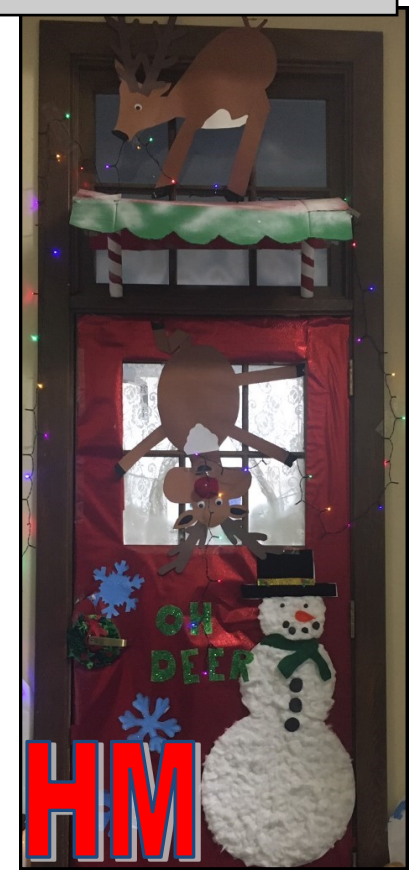


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1st Place - Mr. O'Donnell
 2nd Place- Mr. Campbell
 3rd Place - Miss Corrado
*Honorable Mention - Mrs. Rafalli
 and the MDS room*



What's Happening?



HEMS held its annual Spelling Bee on Tues., Nov. 19th. Pictured left to right: Mrs. Janice Kelly, Spelling Bee Advisor; Hayleigh Correll, middle school runner-up; Evan Tobias, middle school winner; Emely Figueroa, sixth grade runner-up; Adrian Andujar, sixth grade winner; and Mrs. O'Donnell, Spelling Bee Master of Ceremonies. All four represented the school at the District Bee in January.

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