

# The Castle Caller



FREE

A Student Newspaper

Winter Edition 2022

## The Wonderful World of Winter Sports

Written by Elianny Garcia and Dawilka De Los Ortiz

Winter brings us cold weather, holiday celebrations, snow, and **winter sports**.

Hazleton Elementary/Middle School's basketball season has begun so we interviewed our basketball and cheerleading coaches, Mr. Silva (Mounts Boys' Basketball), Mr. Wilner (Mounts Girls' Basketball), and Mrs. Planutis (Mounts Cheerleaders), as well as some student athletes.

### Coaches

**Mr. Silva**

**Q: How long have you been coaching the boys' basketball team?**

A: I have been coaching the Hazleton Middle School Boys' Basketball Team as an assistant or volunteer coach, from the 2012-2013 to the 2016-2017 seasons and as a head coach, from the 2017-2018 season to the present (2021-2022). I have also dedicated 12 years of service as the School's Bilingual Interpreter/Translator.

**Q: What strengths do you see with this year's team?**

A: I see strength on offense and team chemistry this year.

**Q: What is an area of improvement that you would like to see?**

A: There are two areas of improvement that I would like to see this season. First, I'm looking for an increase of basketball skills in most of my players and second, more improvement of the team's defense. However, the season has just started, and I have confidence that all players on the team, together, will work hard to improve on these two areas.

**Q: What is your goal for the season?**

A: I would like all players, 7th graders moving into 8th grade and 8th graders moving into 9th grade, to learn as much as they can this season, so their skills in the game

of basketball can improve. Their gains this season, hopefully, will be enough to culminate the journey and enable them to bring a championship title to this school.

**Mr. Wilner**

**Q: How long have you been coaching the girls' basketball team?**

A: This is my fifth season coaching the girls' basketball team.

**Q: What strengths do you see with this year's team?**

A: The girls are working hard.

**Q: What is an area of improvement that you would like to see?**

A: I'd like the girls to know where they should be on the court and what to do in different situations.

**Q: What is your goal for the season?**

A: Hopefully, we will make a return to the

to the play-offs.

**Mrs. Planutis**

**Q: How long have you been coaching the Mounts Cheerleaders?**

A: This is my fifth year coaching the cheerleaders.

(Please see Winter Sports on page 2)

**Punxsutawney Phil predicts another 6 weeks of winter.**

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# Winter Sports

(From page 1)

**Q: What is an area of improvement that you would like to see?**

A: I'd like the girls to be full of school spirit and energy.

**Q: What is your goal for the season?**

A: My goal would be to cheer with this squad at both the boys' and girls' championship games at the Hazleton Area High School. I encourage everyone to come out to the games and support our teams.

Our coaches are not the only ones who are enthusiastic about the season. Members of the teams explained what they enjoyed most about their chosen sport or stated their goals for the season.

## Student Athletes

**Elaisa Marmol Santiago (Girls' Mounts Basketball)** said, "I hope to become better at shooting the ball. It feels amazing to do a three-pointer."

**Mercedes Pena (Girls' Mounts Basketball)** mentioned, "I want to

improve by paying attention and arriving early."

**Maria Ramirez Florez ((Girls' Mounts Basketball)** said, "I love being aggressive on the court, but I'd like to get better at shooting." She added, "Mr. Wilner is the best coach."

**Krismeris Reynoso (Girls' Mounts Basketball)** stated "I want to get better at dribbling the ball." She added, "My favorite thing about basketball is feeling good energy."

**Reylynn Rosario (Girls' Mounts Basketball)** responded, "I'd like to improve my patience and to learn from my mistakes."

**Xavier Perez (Boys' Mounts Basketball)** said "My goal is to play college basketball."

**Reilyn Taveras Leotos (Boys' Mounts Basketball)** replied "I want to get better at shooting." He added, "My favorite thing about the sport is playing with the team. I

I try to pay attention to my teammates and my coach."

**Robin Sanchez (Boys' Mounts Basketball)** responded "My goal is to win."

**Noel Matos (Boys' Mounts Basketball)** stated, "I want to play in the NBA!"

**Tiffany Taveras Rosario (Mounts Cheerleader)** said "I'd like to improve my stunts because cheers are really tied together so the more, I improve in stunts, the better the cheers look."

**Jocelyn Lukashunas (Mounts Cheerleader)** replied, "I hope to learn two or three more cheers, and to get more people to come to the games."

**Ava Cahalane (Mounts Cheerleader)** responded, "I'd like to spread school spirit."

**Jatna Abreu (Mounts Cheerleader)** mentioned, "I hope to motivate all of the players."

There's no doubt that our winter sports teams will have an exciting season. The coaches, players, and cheerleaders are

definitely motivated to work together to improve skills. But spectators also play an important role. Consider attending a game to support your peers and your school.

## GO MOUNTS!

*"The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that little extra."*

*-Jimmy Johnson*

## MIDDLE SCHOOL SPRING SPORTS

**Spring Physical Examinations** must be submitted prior to **Monday, March 7, 2022.**

Official starting date is **Monday, March 7, 2022.**

**BOYS' TRACK & FIELD**

**GIRLS' TRACK & FIELD**

**GIRLS' SOFTBALL**

# Student Survey

## *Cursive Writing* - Skill of the Past or Meant to Last?

Written by Daliana Melendez

Students in middle school were recently asked whether cursive writing should be taught in school. The responses were evenly split among our middle schoolers. Supporters offered the following thoughts:

**Jailene Pimentel**, seventh grade, said, "Yes, cursive writing should be taught in school because you should know how to read it."

**Mercedes A. Pena**, seventh grade, stated, "I do think cursive writing should be taught in school, mainly for signatures."

**Dylan Stish**, seventh grade, responded, "Yes, it should be taught because it's good to know."

**Lian Guzman**, seventh grade, replied, "I think we should write in cursive because what happens if we have to sign something?"

**Ciarra Bracero**, eighth grade, said, "I think we should be taught cursive writing because

we would need to use it for business such as writing checks or signatures. So yes, I think it should be taught in schools."

**Devin Perez**, eighth grade, stated, "Yes, it should be taught so we could learn how to do a signature."

**Ideliz Colon**, eighth grade, responded, "Yes, I feel that type of writing should be taught in school because most kids would love to learn how to write fancy."

**Jeffrey Ramirez**, eighth grade, replied, "Yes, it should be taught so we could have great handwriting and learn how to do signatures."

Those who are against the teaching of cursive writing presented the following views:

**Carla Tousent**, eighth grade, said, "No, cursive writing shouldn't be taught because it isn't needed to communicate. If anything, it's more of a courtesy."

**Bianca Bates**, eighth grade, stated, "I believe we should not be taught cursive writing because I don't think it's a necessity in the future."

**Gianmarcos Felipe Reyes**, eighth grade, replied, "Cursive writing would be stressful and not easy to learn."

**Ariel Rodriguez**, seventh grade, responded, "Learning cursive writing is a waste of time. We need to learn other stuff."

**Jandell Perez**, seventh grade, stated, "It shouldn't be taught because I know I'll never use it."

**Leonardo Perez**, seventh grade, agreed. He said, "Cursive writing is useless."

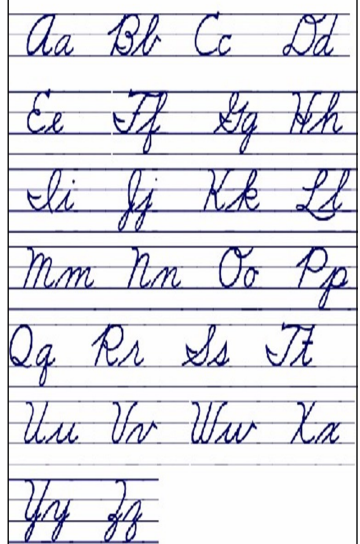
**Jancy Colon**, seventh grade, suggested, "Cursive writing should be taught in school but not as a mandatory subject. I think it should be taught in something like art club, not in class for a grade."

As you can see, students have different opinions on the topic. In the Hazleton Area School District, cursive writing is currently taught in second grade.

*What do you think about cursive writing?*

**Editor's Note:** If you think it's difficult to write your name in cursive, you should try to write it in binary code! (Please see page 8.)

### Cursive Writing Alphabet





# Extracurricular Activities

## Drama Club Delivers!

Written by Dalays Soriano Rodriguez

The drama club's presentation, *Scrooge Makes Up!*, was a big hit in December. Club members shared some parting thoughts about their experiences and future aspirations.

**What did you enjoy the most about participating in the play?**

**Edwin Delarosa**, eighth grade, answered, "Hanging out with people I care about."

**Alex Antonelli**, eighth grade, stated, "It was fun hanging out with people I know!"

**Shanelle Sepulveda**, eighth grade, replied, "I liked the part in the play when I lifted my cane and threatened Charity"

**Would you recommend joining the drama club to other students? Why or why not?**

**Aliana Fernandez**, seventh grade, said, "Absolutely, it was really fun and a great experience."

**Marbelys Pagan Ramirez**, eighth grade, responded, "Yes, in the past I was very anxious and nervous. I still am, but it helped. Now I'm proud of myself and I know more people."

**Lilly Merenda**, eighth grade, com-

recommend it because you get to have tons of fun and hang out with people you normally wouldn't hang out with because they are in different classes/grades."

**Do you think you'll be interested in attending the Arts and Humanities Program during high school?**

**Keilin Feliz**, seventh grade, said "Yeah!"

**Liz Tavarez**, eighth grade, responded, "I am, yeah."

Students who have an interest in acting, designing sets, or helping behind-the-scenes, should consider signing up for the drama club for the 2022-2023 school year. As they say in show biz, that's a wrap!

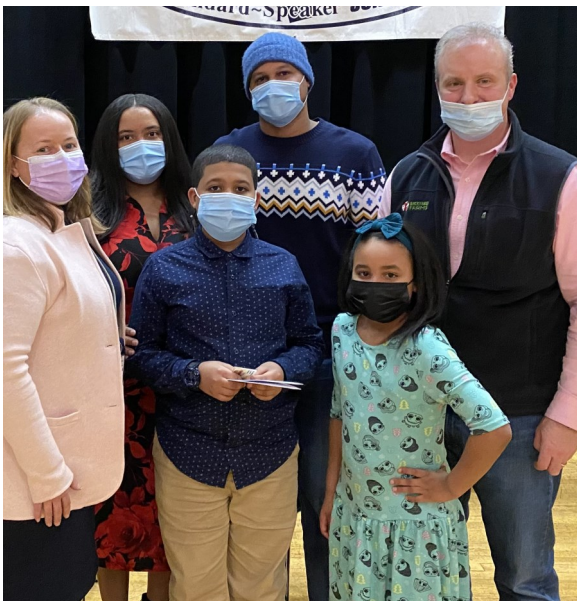
### HEMS Drama Club



# Extracurricular Activities



The administration at Hazleton Elementary Middle School announced the winners of its Spelling Bee. Pictured left to right are Ms. Debbie Faith Kupsho, Principal HEMS, Maximillyano Almanzar Castillo, elementary runner up, Isleny Rodas Difo, middle school runner up, Dariel Laureano, middle school first place, Angel De La Rosa, elementary first place and Mr. Scott Campbell, HEMS Spelling Bee Adviser. These students will advance to the District Spelling Bee being held on February 1st at 6:30PM at the Hazleton Area High School.



## CONGRATULATIONS ANGEL!

Angel De La Rosa, the winner of the Hazleton Area School District 2022 Spelling Bee, is surrounded by his family as well as Ms. Debbie Faith Kupsho, HEMS Principal, and Mr. Scott Campbell, HEMS Spelling Bee Adviser. Angel will compete at the Regional Spelling Bee on Sunday, March 13, at the Wilkes-Barre Area High School auditorium.



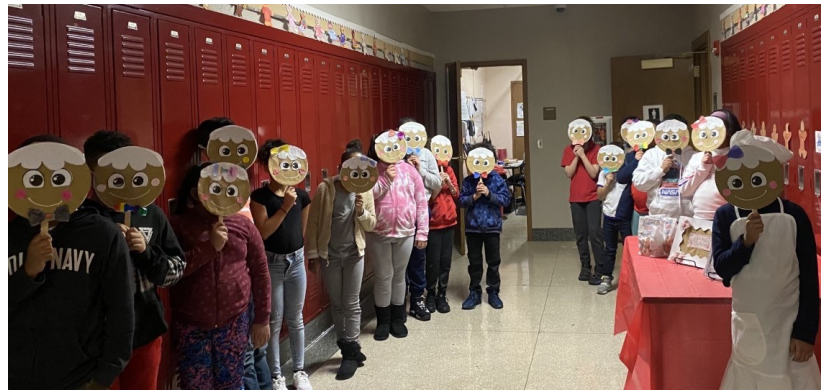
# What's Happening?

## Door Decor Elementary Winners

1st Place

Mrs. Bruno's  
Gingerbread House

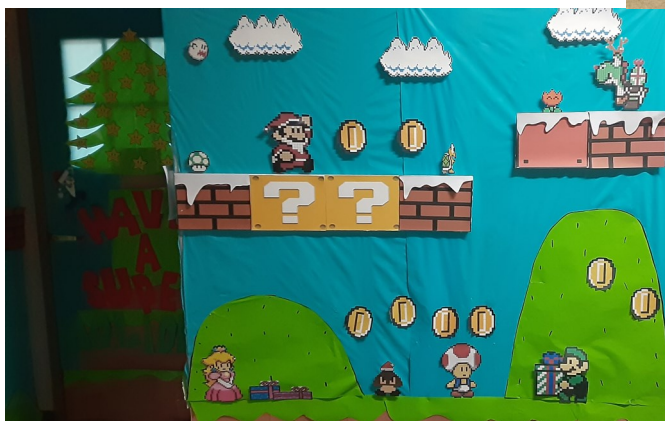
3rd Grade



2nd Place

Miss Smith's  
Polar Express

3rd Grade



3rd Place

Mrs. Bogansky's  
Mario Kart

4th Grade



# What's Happening?



**1st Place**  
**Mrs. Mooney**



**2nd Place**  
**Mr. Wilner**  
**7th Grade**

**3rd Place**  
**Ms. Rimshaw**  
**8th Grade**



## Door Decor

### Middle School Winners

#### Holiday Door Decorating Contest

Written by Isabel Lopez

See what inspired these masterpieces!

**Q: What was the source of inspiration for your door?**

**Mrs. Bruno** (Elementary First Place): My students like cookies so we decided to do the gingerbread door.

**Miss Smith** (Elementary Second Place): The Polar Express was my inspiration and I thought my students could be the passengers inside the train.

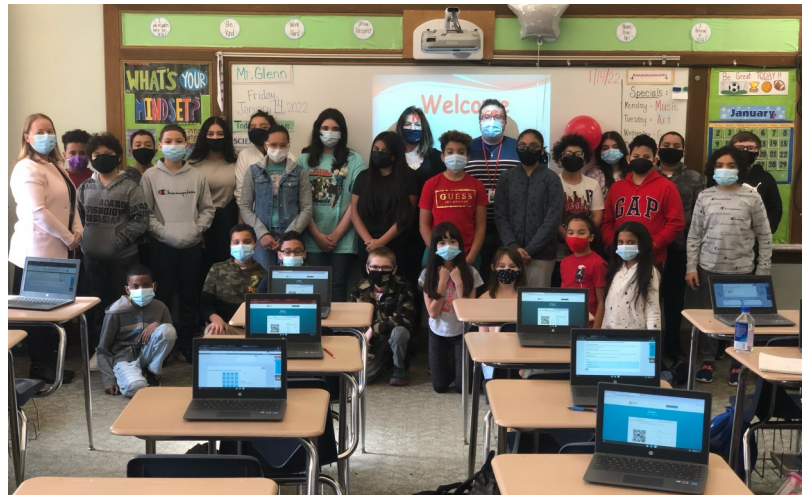
**Mrs. Bogansky** (Elementary Third Place): My students all like Mario Brothers Kart.

**Mrs. Mooney** (Middle School First Place): My design was something involving mathematics but related to the holidays.

**Mr. Wilner** (Middle School Second Place): My inspiration was to beat Mrs. Force.

**Ms. Rimshaw** (Middle School Third Place): My home-room was the inspiration. They came up with the design.

# What's Happening?



In recognition of School Director Appreciation Month, Mrs. Scarcella visited Mr. Glenn's 5th grade class and held a discussion and answer session about her roles and responsibilities of being a member of the HASD school board.

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01010111 01001001 01010100 01001000
01001101 01010010 01010011 00101110
01001011 01001111 01011010 01001100 01000101 01001011
(AKA CODING WITH MRS. KOZLEK)
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## 8th Graders Build an Interactive Diorama

8th Grade Students Mason Tobias , Albalina Fernandez, Jatna Abreu, and Eliesel Lazala Gomez created an interactive diorama of the Apollo 11. This was the spacecraft that first landed humans on the moon. The students built the diorama out of cardboard and a hummingbird robotics kit. Hummingbird kits are creative robotics tools which allows students to design, build, and program a personally meaningful robot out of any materials, with any device, in multiple programming languages. Students coded over 35 lines of code to make their rocket rise and lower into orbit of their project. The robotics parts were gifted to the school from the PPL Foundation's Empowering Educators grant in their 8th grade Computer Science class.

## CLASSIFIED AD

**Wanted:** Kind individuals to show appreciation to loved ones. Express gratitude to the ones you love most!

## CLASSIFIED AD

**Wanted:** Energetic students who want to improve fitness levels and make new friends. Track and Field sign-ups are underway! See Mrs. Planutis for more information.

## CLASSIFIED AD

**Wanted:** Honor roll students who are interested in being inducted into NJHS. There is still time to complete service hours. See Mrs. Dudeck for details.



# Activity Page

## V♥lentine's D♥y

Written by the *Castle Caller* Staff

### DID YOU KNOW?????

...Every year, thousands of letters are sent to "Juliet" in Verona, Italy, home of the well-known tale "Romeo and Juliet". A group of volunteers answer the letters and award a prize to the most moving love letter.

... Cupid, the baby with wings and a bow and arrow, has been linked to Valentine's Day for centuries. Cupid was known to the ancient Greeks as Eros, the god of love and was the son of the Greek goddess, Aphrodite.

...The phrase "wearing your heart on your sleeve" might be linked to selecting a valentine. During the Middle Ages, men would pull out the names of women who they would be paired with during a Roman festival. After the drawing, men wore the names on their sleeves to demonstrate their new bond. (The idiom "wearing your heart on your sleeve" means easily showing your emotions.)

...Sweetheart candies, heart-shaped candies that can be found around Valentine's Day,

were originally made as lozenges, small tablets that are taken for sore throats. Inventor Oliver Chase originally created the machine to make lozenges before converting

the machine to produce candy.

These facts were provided courtesy of History.com.

<https://www.history.com/topics/valentines-day/>

### WORD SEARCH

G	U	E	L	J	X	Q	C	R	G	O	F	N	T	K
R	B	O	D	D	L	F	N	W	E	K	J	R	P	I
U	V	S	B	T	J	N	S	O	D	R	A	S	M	S
E	Y	W	S	Q	W	V	I	N	I	E	I	O	T	S
Q	H	B	X	T	U	S	O	N	H	N	H	M	P	E
A	P	P	R	E	C	I	A	T	I	O	N	U	D	S
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I	F	P	E	O	C	X	Q	B	Y	E	J	T	Q	K
A	N	A	R	R	F	R	I	E	N	D	S	H	I	P
F	U	D	O	U	P	U	X	D	B	R	T	E	W	M
R	N	D	F	Y	C	F	H	Q	R	I	Z	R	B	J
H	S	I	R	E	H	C	O	X	D	I	N	C	Z	W

admirer  
cherish  
forever  
hugs  
sweetheart

affection  
crush  
friendship  
kisses  
together

appreciation  
devotion  
hearts  
love  
trust

<https://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/word-search/result>

# Thanks HEMS PTA !

We would like to express our gratitude to the HEMS PTA for all they do to benefit our students and staff. We truly appreciate all the time, effort, and love you put into each endeavor. Thanks to your efforts we have sensational programs, much-needed classroom supplies, and educational field trips that would not be possible otherwise. Thank you for helping to provide a safe and nurturing environment for our students to thrive!

## *The Castle Caller Staff*

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