



The Castle Caller

FREE

A Student Newspaper

Winter Edition 2015

NEPA Winter: Love It or Hate It?

By **Nicolle Garcia***
Junior Reporter

Winter is a beautiful season! Just because the summer sun isn't here doesn't mean you can't enjoy yourself. There are a lot of fun activities you can do, especially in NEPA (Northeastern Pennsylvania).

Many people deal with the winter months differently, though. Some like to enjoy the cold weather and play outdoors in the snow, while others hibernate indoors and watch TV. What is your favorite activity during the winter season?

In speaking with many of the middle school students at HMS, there was a common activity the majority of kids enjoyed.

Andrew Puntiel, seventh grade, and **Maddy Ramos**, eighth grade, love when it snows because they throw snowballs at their brothers. So much sibling love!

Seventh grader **Yina Barraza** agrees! She likes a good snowball fight and then comes inside to get warm and watching Netflix.

Brianna Santos, seventh grade, likes to go ice

skating. Afterwards she likes to warm up with hot cocoa. **Verina Gad**, seventh grade, also enjoys a warm cup of cocoa on a cold day.

Eighth grade teacher **Mr. Schifano** said he really enjoys skiing! A perfect activity in NEPA, as there are many ski resorts at your fingertips in the Poconos, a short 45 minutes drive from Hazleton.

Sixth grade teacher **Miss Stauffer** said her favorite things to do in the cold months is snow-tubing and playing in the snow with her dog, Webbie.

There are many people who hate the cold and snow and prefer to hibernate until the warm weather returns.

Fourth grade teacher **Mr. O'Donnell** has no favorite activities. He hates the cold. He hates the snow.

McKenzie Potten, eighth grade, prefers lying on her bed, watching Netflix with her cat, and eating chipotle.

Jerry Marcalle, sixth grade, likes staying inside



playing video games.

In short, whether you are a lover or hater of the winter season, there are many activities available in NEPA: skiing, snow-tubing, snowman building, ice skating, or just plain fun and games. It can just be as simple as making snow angels.

If the cold weather just isn't your thing, we'll see you in spring!

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CLUB NEWS



Student Council to Hold Annual Sweetheart Dance

By Sera McManus
Junior Reporter

Valentine's Day is coming up quickly. Student council advisor Ms. DeLuca is planning the annual Valentine's Dance. The dance will be held Friday, February 20 from 6-8pm. The DJ will be Dante Mariano from Platinum Productions.

As always, students will need a signed contract. Ms. DeLuca said she would like to see that all students have a good time and have excellent behavior.

Student council President **Emely Martinez** is

excited for the dance. She will be attending with Axel Tavarus.

She said she hopes everything goes well and everyone has fun!

Eighth grader **Elsa Ledesma** wants to dance all night like she did at the Harvest Dance in November. She is going with three people. "Me, myself and I," were her



exact words.

Eighth grader **Felyssa Ricco** is hoping to go with her boyfriend Justin Rodriguez.

She is excited to go in her new dress and heels.

Lizandra Torres is also planning to wear a new dress and she can't wait to dance with her friends.

Student council treas-

urer **Jenna Palermo** said, "Of course I am excited to go." She is going with her boyfriend Morgan Clark.

Eighth grader **Andrew DeJesus** plans to chill with his friends and dance.

Seventh grader **Kamryn Knittle** is excited to go with her boyfriend Gavin Snyder.

Finally, **Elizabeth Cruz** is excited. She doesn't have a date, but she doesn't need one. She plans to have fun with friends.

New Advisor for 6th Grade Club

By Clarissa Nunez*
Junior Reporter

Due to Mrs. Cain's departure to Maple Manor Elementary School, the sixth grade Community Service club has a new advisor - Mrs. Karlick!

Mrs. Karlick said the club's current activities are obtaining donations for the American Cancer Society and working on Brandon's Forever Hope, a non-profit organization established to raise adoption and foster care awareness.

Mrs. Karlick would also like to encourage this year's fifth grade class to join the Community Service club next year. She said it is a great way to represent the school in the outside community. Also, joining clubs is a nice way to make friends by getting to know students in other classes.

Meetings will be held the first Wednesday of every month. Club members should plan to be at

all meetings.

Club member **Kaitlyn Roskos** said she

loves being in the club because it is fun and so is Mrs. Karlick.

Sixth grader **Karen Pujols** agreed and said the club is great.

Kaleigh Frederick loves being part of the club. She said, "It's a great club because you



Community Service Club is a great way to represent our school, as well as make new friends.

-Mrs. Karlick, 6th grade Community Service Club Advisor

get to help out people."

Kayleigh Correll said, "This is a great after school activity for students who want to be part of a school organization, but don't want to join a sports team."

Fifth graders be sure to sign up in September!

FEATURES

Spelling Bee Winners

By Leisha Abreu*
Junior Reporter

Once again, Hazleton Elementary Middle School held its annual spelling bee. This year's middle school winners were seventh grader **Christopher Ramirez**, who placed second at HEMS, and first place winner, eighth grader **Makayla Kerrick**. The sixth grade winners were **Kayleigh Correll**, first place, and second place **Eddie Linker**.

After the students win at their schools, they move on to compete against other Hazleton Area School District winners at the district bee, held at West Hazleton Elementary Middle School.



From left: Ramirez, Correll and Linker pose after Districts.

Ramirez, who was nervous about getting out, said he made it to the fourth or fifth round at the district bee. He was proud of himself that he made it that far.

Correll said she also made

it to the fourth of fifth round in the district bee. She said she was nervous because of all the people in the audience, but as she went along she felt better about it.

Linker made it to the ninth

round at the district bee and said it was a fun experience and would definitely do it again.

Kerrick declined our interview request.

Congratulations to all the sixth, seventh and eighth grade students who participated in their school's spelling bee and those who made it to the district bee. Winners of the district bee will be competing at the Woodlands Inn and Resort in Wilkes-Barre on March 29th.

Students in grades 6-8 can participate every year so keep trying and never give up!

MOUNTS CORNER CHAT

By Samuel Figueroa
Junior Reporters

A class yearbook is a great way to remember the school events of the past year, as well as your friends and teachers, especially since many of us lose touch when we move to the high school. It's also fun to write messages to each other and look back on them fondly in years to come.

This reporter polled 100 sixth and seventh graders to see if there was any interest in a class yearbook next year. The results were an overwhelming yes!

The following seventh graders had this to say:

Angela Lara said a yearbook would be fun to look at.

Emiley Gomez said she likes the thought of a yearbook. It will remind her of her friends.

Evelyn Lopez said it

would remind her of the people she grew up with.

Brianna Santos would like to have it for the memories.

Federico Gutierrez said he doesn't want one because he thinks it is worthless.

The following sixth graders made these comments:

Serina White would like a yearbook to remember her friends and teachers.

Coralis Tejada wants one to remember everyone who was in her class.

Antonio Ruiz said it would be nice to have for the future.

Finally, **Gamrick Garcia** doesn't want one because he is not interested in buying it.

Remember, yearbooks won't be free. Fundraising can be done to lessen the cost, but you will have to buy a yearbook if you want one.

MOUNT'S CORNER CHAT

By: Samuel Figueroa*

Would you be interested in having a school yearbook?

90% Yes

10% No



*Based on a poll taken of 100 HEMS sixth and seventh grade students.

NEWSFLASH



The Mountaineer cheerleaders placed second in the Rover Rumble Cheer Challenge held on December 11, 2014 at Easton High School in Easton, PA. The cheerleaders are pictured with their trophy. Head coach is Mrs. O'Donnell and former Mountaineer cheerleader Taylor Tarone serves as assistant coach.

PSSA INFO

The PSSA tests will begin on *Monday, April 13* and conclude on *Friday, May 1*. All grades of HEMS students will be taking the PSSA test in Mathematics and English/Language Arts. Grades 4 and 8 will also be taking a PSSA in Science. Any questions regarding testing can be directed to the school's guidance counselor Mrs. Planutis or HEMS principal Ms. Derosé. Good luck to all students!

The Castle Caller Staff

Reporters:

Leisha Abreu Nicolle Garcia Samuel Figueroa
Sera McManus Clarissa Nunez

Photographers:

M. O'Donnell

Editor-in-Chief/Advisor:

Mrs. O'Donnell

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

