



The Castle Caller

FREE

A Student Newspaper

Winter Edition 2016

New Year, New You

By Rubith Diaz, Maria Jimenez, and Brandy Rodriguez
Junior Reporters*

New Year! New You? Have you thought about your new year's resolution yet? Seventh and eighth graders at the Castle did and they know exactly what changes they are going to make in 2016.

Eighth grader **Samuel Figueroa** said, "I would like to get fit. I would also like to be healthier and stop eating so much junk food."

Brianna Estrella, eighth grade, said she would like to make as many memories as she can, here at HEMS, before high school. Well, she doesn't have too much time left to do that!

Adrian Nivar, eighth grade, said he would like to have better grades, go to high school, and make more friends.

Eighth grader **Euris Minyetty**, said, "I would like to get better grades and pass eighth grade."

Elizabeth Cruz, **Yanixa Rodriguez**, and **Ryan Fisher**, all eighth graders, said they want to have better grades. This is a common resolution.

Rodriguez also said, "I

would like to have better grades,. Cruz said she would like to be a better student.

Eighth grader **Anjonai Lewis** said she wants to be awesome every day of the year, and she wants to learn how to do a backflip!

Genesis Martinez eighth grade, said, "I would love to be better at school and have more respect towards others. Also, since it's a new year, it's new Jordans!"

Sixth grade teacher **Mrs. Kelly** said, "My resolution is to be more organized at school, home, and to make an effort to keep in touch with family and friends."

Mrs. Karlick, ESL teacher, said, "To get my house organized. There is too much clutter in the Karlick house."

Mrs. Molosky, sixth grade social studies and science, said, "My resolution is to contact and get together more often with some of my friends who live out of the area."

Seventh grade English teacher **Mr. Hearne** said, "My resolution is to write

I want to be awesome every day of the year.
-Anjonai Lewis
8th Grade

"My resolution is to write more and stress less."

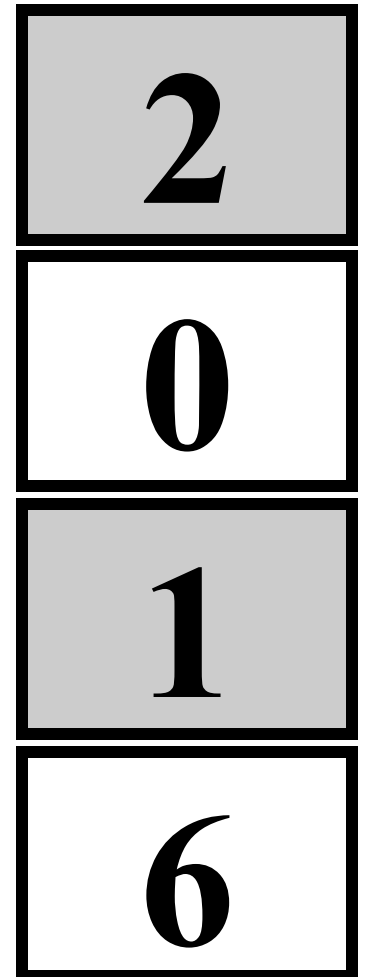
Mrs. Dudeck, seventh grade Reading, said, "I don't have resolutions; however I might tell my students that my resolution is to give more homework."

Mrs. O'Donnell, sixth grade Reading/Language Arts, said, "I plan to spend money wisely, accomplish some goals, and to read as much as possible."

Mrs. Shemansky, HEMS school aide, said her resolution for the new year is to have more patience.

Whether you made a resolution or not doesn't matter. The most important thing is to always try to be the best you can be. Work every day to improve yourself and never give up!

Have a great 2016!



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FEATURES

Who's YOUR Valentine?

By Samuel Figueroa
Junior Reporter

It's the most wonderful time of the year...

When couples are dating, and love arrows shooting when cupid's around...

It's the most wonderful time of the year!

It's Valentine's Day again, but love doesn't seem to be in the air this year for everyone. From what I remember last year, love was everywhere. This year some people want to stay single. Although there are those who want to declare their love for their special someone.

Vanasia Germosen, eighth grade, said, "My valentine is me, myself, and I because there is nobody to love but myself."

Brianna Santos said, "Ryan Fisher.

He's my valentine because he is my boyfriend."

Kiana Veras, eighth grade, said, "My valentine is the most important person, myself. You have

to love yourself first before anyone else can."

Kara Hogue, eighth grade said, "My valentine is Austin Card because he is my best friend and he is also my boyfriend."

Sahira Olaverria, eighth grade, said, "My valentine is Oscar Gonzalez because he is a very special person to me."

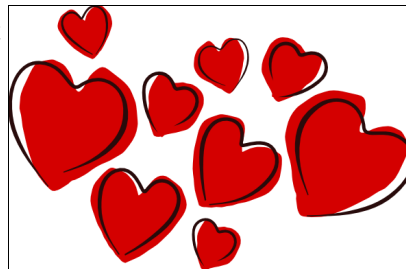
Angela Lara, eighth grade, said, "My valen-

tine is Edgar Soto, LOL."

Verina Gad, eighth grade, said, "My anniversary is on Valentine's Day. I've been single for 13 years, 9 months, and 15 days."

I hope everyone has a special day with their special someone. This reporter, personally, wants his crush to be his valentine, but, for now, will remain single and waiting for that perfect someone.

Have a great Valentine's Day everyone! Maybe Cupid will hit YOU with his arrow!



The Mountaineer cheerleaders pose with their 1st place trophy at the Exeter Cheerleading Challenge. The competition was held on January 17, 2016 in Reading, PA. The performance was set to the songs *Cups* and *Shake It Off*, with a sideline cheer routine.

FEATURES

Did You Get What You Wanted This Christmas?

By Jerry Marcalle and Kaitlyn Roskos
Junior Reporters

Santa Claus has gone back to the North Pole and all he left behind are his presents. While Christmas is a jolly time and all, let's face it, for kids, it's all about that one morning when you get to open your long, awaited presents and enjoy them for the whole day, or year!

So how did it go for HEMS students this year?

Sixth grader **Ajaiyah Roman** said she got what she wanted for Christmas, which was a pink hoverboard.

Angel Arias, sixth grade, wanted a laptop and he got it!

Francis Soto, sixth grade, got a Beats pill.

Eighth grader **Jeremiah Whitfield** said he didn't ask for anything specific, but he got cash.

Karen Pujols, seventh grade, got the one thing that she wanted, which was red Nike Roshes.

Seventh grader **Geomar Medina** said he got a PS4.

Duly Morrilo, seventh grade, said he received a 2k16.

Seventh grader **Jonny Cruz** also said he received a hoverboard. The hoverboard was the most sought after item this Christmas for the adventurous people out there.

Finally, **Gypsy Mendoza**, seventh grade, got the best gift ever...money!

Most of the students we talked to here at HEMS did get what they asked for this Christmas. Even though some stu-



Popular gift request this year was the hoverboard, as featured above.

dents may not have gotten what they asked for, one thing is for certain. We all should be thankful for what we get. Plus, giving is always better than receiving. In the end, it all works out.

Did you get what you wanted for Christmas?

Haphazardly Ever After in Rehearsal

By Kaleigh Frederick and Taylor Williams*
Junior Reporters

This year the drama club will be presenting the play *Haphazardly Ever After* by Jeff Fluharty.

A good-hearted king and queen have problems in their royal family — four spoiled, adult children who do not act royal. They try everything to make things right. When nothing works, they call upon a fairy godmother for help. Can she help them or will the king and

queen have to do it themselves?

Eighth grader **Brianna Santos** plays Princess Cinnamon. She says, "I like my part because I am a pretty princess!" She thinks if they get a lot of money for the play it will go well.

Olivia Santiago, eighth grade, plays Princess Peppermint. She says, "It's a great part because it describes me very well." She thinks it

will go well because everyone's part describes them well.

Eighth graders **Andrew Rudenko** and **Leisha Abreu** will be playing the king and queen. Rudenko said, "I think if everyone works together it'll be perfect. I love my part."

Euris Minyetti, eighth grade, will be portraying Prince Hairgel. He said that he thinks everything is going to go

great.

In conclusion, it seems like it is going to be a great play. Rehearsals started this month. Mrs. Rimshaw said it will take about three months of practice to get ready to put the play on for the school. The art club will also be helping with the scenery. We hope everyone participating in the play has a great time and lots of fun. We can't wait to see it!

POLL

Let It Snow?!

By Cindy Paulino and Nayely Paulino*
Junior Reporters



Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!

Is that the sound of snow coming?

The Castle Caller asked HEMS students if they miss the lack of snow this winter season. Normally, by this point of the year, we have had a few delays and cancellations. However, as of the print date of the publication, we have not had one yet!

Many of the students polled for this edition of Mounts Corner Chat said they like and miss the snowfall every winter in Hazleton.

One of the reasons students like the snow so much is because they get to sleep late when there is no school, or a delay.

Another reason students say they enjoy the snowfall is because they get to play with the fluffy, white stuff. Who doesn't like to build a snowman or have a snowball fight? Of course, not on school

property.

Snow is soft and you can lay in it and make snow angels. Also you can build a snow fort, go sledding, or even go ice skating.

Some students brought up a good point. They can earn money when it snows by shoveling people's driveways and sidewalks.

On the other hand, there are several students who said they do not like the snow and therefore do not miss it at all. First, they felt it is just too darn cold outside when it snows. Second, getting around becomes very difficult when we have a lot of snow on the ground. Finally, students did not enjoy having to shovel the snow, especially if they weren't getting paid for it.

Sixth grader **Catherine Cabral** said, "Yes, I miss the snow because it is really fun to play in and it is just what winter is all about."

MOUNT'S CORNER CHAT

Do HMS students miss the snow this winter?

75% Yes

25% No

*Poll based on answers from approximately 100 teachers and students at HMS.

Editor's note: This article was written prior to the snowstorm on January 21, 2016.

Esmelisa Casaldi, sixth grader, said, "Yes because I think every season has its one thing to shine and stand out and snow is a very beautiful thing that only comes once a year."

Sixth grader **Robert Rodriguez** said, "No, snow is very irritating and it wets the bottoms of my pants. Plus snow forms ice and every single year when the snow hides un-

der the ice and I always slip."

Sixth grader **Leandra Santana** said, "The snow is sometimes really deep. It ruins my boots and accidents can happen."

No matter what, we are bound to get snow this year. It's just a matter of when!

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Editor's note: This article was written prior to the snowstorm on January 21, 2016. Hazleton, PA received over a foot of snow.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Spelling Bee Winners Buzz In

By Marcus Knecht and Braylan Pena
Junior Reporters

The Hazleton Area School District holds an annual spelling bee in all elementary and middle schools. Each schools' bee has two winners. There is a first and a second place winner for sixth grade, as well as seventh and eighth grade combined.

This year, at HEMS, the sixth grade winners were **Jazmine Martinez**, who won first place, and **Gianna Miller**, who won second place.

When asked if she originally thought she would win, Martinez stated that she didn't think she could win because it was a spelling bee, after all.

Miller had a similar thought. She said, "I thought there were smarter people than me."

After the spelling bee, Martinez said she felt pretty good. Miller said it was an

exciting experience.

The winners of the middle school spelling bee were seventh graders **Kayleigh Correll**, who won first place, and **Brayan Pena**, who placed second.

Correll said, "I didn't think I would make it because there were a bunch of other smart people, and I was nervous too." She says she was shocked because she didn't know she won at first, and it made her feel really happy to find out that she did.

Correll shouldn't have been surprised though. Last year, as a sixth grade student, she placed second in the school bee.

This reporter didn't expect to come in second place. I was really paranoid. Although, after the spelling bee, things were really exciting.

Winners moved on to represent the school at the district's spelling bee, which was held on January 13. Rules state that the last student to be eliminated from each school will move on to the regional spelling bee held in Wilkes-Barre in March. Correll was the last student from HEMS eliminated and will advance to regionals.

The district winner was Landon Wolk from Drums Elementary Middle School. Sabrina Sheikh, also from Drums, placed second. Both will advance to regionals, as well.

Regional bee winners move on to the PA state bee and those winners make it to the Scripps' National Spelling Bee held in Washington, D.C.



Seventh graders Correll and Pena pose after HEMS school bee on December 19.



Sixth graders Martinez and Miller, winners of the elementary bee.

Have You Met Mr. Bishop?

By Luis Rojas*
Junior Reporter

This year we have a brand new instrumental music teacher, Mr. Bishop. This is his first year teaching. He said he knew teaching here wasn't going to be the same as the school he grew up going to.

"I grew up in a rural area and school with many farms surrounding the area. Coming to an urban school is a big change for me, but I like

coming to a new area," said Mr. Bishop.

Mr. Bishop studied music at Lebanon Valley College. He said he is proud to

make a more stable, consistent instrumental program for our school. In the future, he plans to start a rock and jazz



Mr. Bishop

ensemble for older students and advanced musicians.

Mr. Bishop mainly plays percussion (drums), but he also knows how to play guitar, piano, trumpet, trombone, French horn, tuba, clarinet, flute, oboe, saxophone, violin, cello, viola, and double bass.

For those who want to join band but are afraid he says if you don't try it and see if you like it, you might miss out on a fun opportunity to play music and meet some possible friends.

Already playing an instrument? He says, "Success doesn't happen overnight. With practice, consistently, you will see improvement in years to come."

All I Want(ed) For Christmas

By Luis Rojas
Junior Reporter

Editor's Note:

The article *All I Want For Christmas* by Luis Rojas was inadvertently left out of the Christmas edition of *The Castle Caller*. The article is being run, in its entirety, as intended, in this edition with sincere apologies to Mr. Rojas.

Christmas is only a few days away. Don't you want to know how your friends and classmates feel about Christmas coming and what they're wishing for?

Seventh grader **Carlos Taures** said he feels excited about Christmas coming up. He is wishing for a brand new Iphone 5s.

Seventh grader **Breuny Fransico** feels thankful because he

will be receiving many gifts for Christmas.

Seventh grader **Edwin Portorreal** said, "I am very excited and anxious about what I'm going to find under my Christmas tree." He is wishing for a brand new, white hover board!

Seventh grader **Luis Gonell** said he is very hyper about Christmas coming. He is just wishing for money as his gift.

Seventh grader **Reynado Santana** says, "Christmas is the best holiday. I'm thrilled and can't wait until I get my Iphone 5s for Christmas."

Eighth grader **Gabby Crump** said, "It is my favorite holiday and I'm very excited." She also wants money under the tree this year.

Eighth grader **Joana**

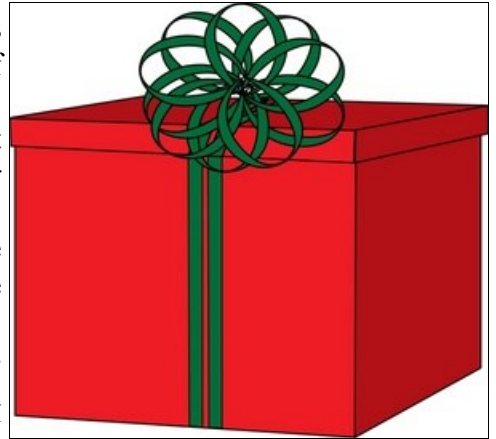
Arias said it is the best out of all the holidays. She said it doesn't matter what she gets that because she will be grateful for it.

Eighth grader **Juliana Ward** said, "I

feel that Christmas is awesome because my birthday is just a two weeks before. That means I get more presents for me." She said she is pretty excited.

Eighth grader **Olivia Santiago** said it feels really great. She is wishing to go to an Adele Concert for Christmas.

Eighth grader **Gabriel Fabian** said it feels amazing and wonderful that Christmas is coming.



He is wishing for a new pair of cleats in pink.

Well, Christmas will sure have lots of excitement this year. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Hope that everyone's wishes come true.

We, at *The Castle Caller*, wonder how many people interviewed in this article actually received what they wished for. Hope you got what you wanted!

S.

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