

Stand together one and all
Pride and Honor Heed our Call
Silver Crimson Colors raise our
Alma Mater Praise

Loyal Friendships can be found
Rich traditions will abound
Raise our voices loud and clear
for Alma Mater Dear



Cougar Chit-Chat

December 2015

1601 W. 23rd St., Hazle Township, PA 18201

Volume 6 Issue 2

"High School Musical" Comes Alive on Stage

by Brittany Heffelfinger

The High School Drama Club, Cougar Players, presented High School Musical as their first play of the year, opening night being Fri., Nov. 20. This "Cougar Chit-Chat" reporter was there on opening night to get some interviews and plenty of pictures.

Many high school students can relate to the play and the story; it was a wildly popular Disney movie during their childhoods. The story of high school drama, singing and dancing on tables, and, in the end, unity and love, captivated most in their younger years.

The performance had exactly the same effect on the audience on opening night. Musical numbers such as "Get'cha Head in the Game," "What I've Been Looking For," and "Stick to the Status Quo," had the audience singing along full of smiles and cheers.

The atmosphere was amazing. There was a sense of unity not only on the stage but throughout the audience. It truly was the "Start of Something New," with changes that were made to the play--that were not in the movie--made it much more comical, and far more entertaining.

Actors and actresses shined in this performance, all in their own unique way, and most of all, together. Austin Redwinski played Troy Bolton, Angelina Umbric as Gabriella Montez, Shelby Wolfe as Sharpay Evans, Jonathan McGran as Chad Danforth, Ron Miller as Ryan Evans, and many more characters. The rest of the cast included Robert Koch, Joshua Plesce, Braden Bresnock, Eric Martinez, Kiriam Yordan, Jonathan Kaschak, Kendall Sosar, Jamie Zapatosky,



Photos by Brittany Heffelfinger; pic-stitch by Jessica Murman.

The cast of "High School Musical" creates the mood for an entertaining

Ali Marhelko, Kaitlyn Moffat, Ally Racho, Sarah Habel, Hannah Smith, Eliezer Echavarria, Cayce Olander, Allan Avila, Ryan Williams, Brenna Fulk, Paige Buckery, Nancy Bucci, Everett Fritz, Jasmine Treichler, Blake Gipson, Lisa McDonough, Morgan Kaschak, Samantha Walsh, Bethany Gavlick, Nicole Berezna, Erica Shane, Morgan Sturm, Sarah Seiwel, and Sa-

vannah Butala.

"Cougar Chit-Chat" is more than happy to say that it rates the Cougar Players' "High School Musical" at five out of five stars! The music, choreography, and everything else that went into the production of the play was absolutely phenomenal!

Cougar Players' Quotes on Performance

by Brittany Heffelfinger

"It was super relatable, but we didn't start feeling hyped until we got in front of an audience." ~ Sarah Seiwel

"It felt like it all came together at the last possible second, but we did it!" ~ Joshua Plesce

"We pulled it together and it was just great, it was so worth it!" ~ Angelina Umbric

Chit-Chat interviewed Mrs. Bromiley, the head of the Drama department. She was asked these questions: "Why did you pick this play to be the first of the year?" "What was your favorite part?" and "What actor stood out the most to you?"

She answered with "Because of the message that it sends; 'We're all in this together,'" "In the end when the realize that they don't have to judge others because of differences" and "Everybody gave 110%"

Tis the Season for Holiday Volunteer Opportunities

by Ally Hudock and Mark Kisenwether

During the Christmas holiday season, children play in the snow with friends and family. They are trying to patiently await the arrival of Santa and the reindeer. High hopes exist when "reindeer food" (AKA glitter sprinkled by parents) is spotted on the snow!

Adults typically busy their schedules with shopping for gifts, readying their homes, decorating, and preparing meals.

Some children and adults alike attend church more regularly to meet their religious obligations during this holiest season awaiting the birth and arrival of the Christ child.

People volunteer to help others through well-intended local organizations such as the Salvation Army, Helping Hands Society, Catholic Social Agency, Pathways to Recovery, and SPCA, local churches, soup kitchens, nursing homes.

Students may look to opportunities to volunteers on behalf of their school clubs and activities such as Key Club, National Honor Society, Student Council, and Executive Council.

Opportunities exist to spread holiday cheer to those who are less fortunate. Giving gifts to people who can't afford it; Working in soup kitchen to help feed the homeless; Donate clothes to the less fortunate people; Donate to food pantry; Take children's names from the giving tree and buy them gifts; Gift wrapping; Toys for Tots; holiday food drives.

All families celebrate in their own unique ways.

Family Traditions include things like Go look at houses with lights on Christmas Eve; Christmas eve pj party at aunts house; put up Christmas tree as a family; all wear matching Pjs; Leave cookies, milk and a card for "santa"; Go to New York to give money to people who need it and bless them; Cutting down and decorating tree; watch the ball



Photo collage by Thomas A. Holodick

Reminders that the holiday season is in full force abound!

drop on new years; baking cookies; building a snowman; ugly sweaters; exchanging gifts;

Many family traditions revolve around food. Greek dinner on Christmas eve; Family dinner; Making sauerkraut and pork on New years eve; Eating 12 grapes on new years, each grape represents a month of the year (Spanish); Cooking as a family;

Going to church on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day; Pray for 30 minutes and the grandma reads a speech; Christmas wafers; go to church on Christmas eve; have an advent wreath in the house.

Respect Goes a Long Way

by Brittany Heffelfinger

"Respect" is a word that students all hear, some more often than others. In a school setting, respect is shown many ways; dress-code, doing your work...but what else is there?

Some will tell you that "language," or the way that you speak to others or about them, has more to do with respect than anything else. Yet, others will argue that freedom of speech entitles them to say whatever they care to, wherever they care to.

This may be a matter of opinion, but the question here is, "How should you speak, depending on where you are?" Everyone knows that you shouldn't go to a job interview and refer to your potential employer as "Dawg" or anything of the like, but that is that the only place where such rules apply?

HASD students were asked the following questions-- "Does a student's use of foul language or speaking of inappropriate topics effect how you view them as a person?" and "Do you view this type of speech as disrespectful, if so, why?"

Student body response to both questions was overwhelmingly, "Yes." Students said things like, "I think it's disrespectful because some people don't like it." "I feel as though it shouldn't be said in school or in class." "I think so, because teachers are offended by it."

If students all agree with this statement, why are these things still heard being said throughout the hallways and in the lunchroom?

HAHS--let's put a concentrated effort into ridding this school of the less than acceptable, borderline offensive language. If you wouldn't say it at work, don't say it at school!

Des Prieres pour Paris

by Jake Sachse

A brutal attack on Paris was carried out late on Friday, November 13th. In total, there were 137 casualties, 130 of them victims of the attacks and the other 7 were the attackers themselves. Attacks took place on locations such as the Stade de France, a concert hall, and two restaurants.

ISIS has officially taken responsibility for the attacks, claiming it as an act of war against civilization, not just France. Russian President Vladimir Putin has offered assistance to France and the United States in their fight against ISIS, along with the Chinese President. The

United Nations endorsed a resolution calling for all countries to take the "necessary measures" to squash ISIS.

Refugees from Syria are taking cover in countries such as England. Some are attempting to come into the United States, in which only five states will actually accept them. Belgium has stepped up their terrorism security to a level three (four being the highest threat level), and have closed their border with France.

Could this be the end for the Islamic Radicalist group known as ISIS? Are they just getting started? With the world against them, it's only a matter of time before ISIS is no longer a credible threat to society.

Meet The Teachers!

Meet The Students!

by Thomas A. Holodick

Students were asked the following questions, in which their responses follow.

- Birthday
- What grade are you in?
- What is your favorite subject?
- What are your interests outside of school?
- What should we know about you?



Dalton Payne

I was born on Feb. 3, 1999. I am a junior at the Hazleton Area High School. My favorite subject is History. I love hunting and shooting trap. Everyone should know that I am a hard worker and love my job.



Sebastian Rojas

I was born on May 8, 2000. I am a sophomore at the Hazleton Area High School. My favorite subject is history. Outside of school I enjoy watching and playing sports such as football, baseball, and basketball. Everyone should know that I am a very friendly and talkative person.



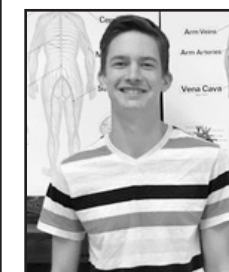
Chris Pape

I was born on Sep. 26, 1997. I am a senior at the Hazleton Area High School. My favorite subject is math. I enjoy snowboarding, playing my guitar, and listening to music. Everyone should know that I can play both the electric and acoustic guitar.



Ani Bending

I was born on Jul. 19, 1998. I am a senior at the Hazleton Area High School. My favorite subject is English. I love spending my time running and enjoying the company of friends. Everyone should know that I love the beach and listening to music.



Cloin Stauffer

I was born on Apr. 14, 1999. I am a Junior at the Hazleton Area High School. My favorite subject is history. I enjoy playing and watching Baseball. Everyone should know that I have big feet and am a size 13 in shoes.



Alana Delgado

I was born on Jun. 25, 1998. I am a junior at the Hazleton Area High School. My favorite subject is science. Outside of school I enjoy working for KFC. Everyone should know that I am an outgoing person.



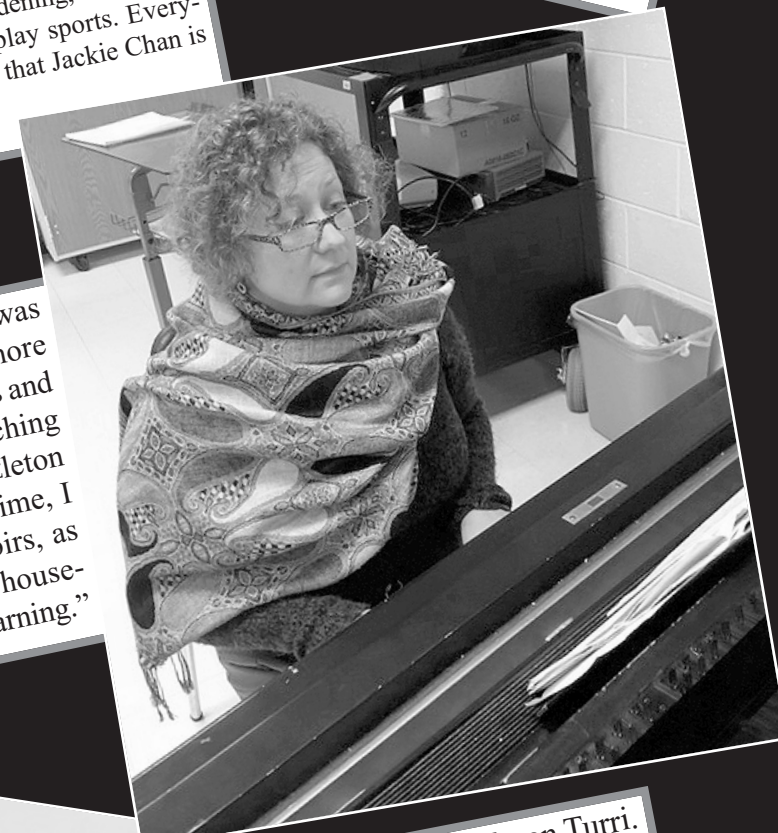
Teachers were asked the following questions, in which their responses follow.

Name
 Birthday
 What subjects do you teach?
 How many years have you been teaching?
 What are your interests outside of school?
 What is something we should know about you?

My name is Mr. Jared Stock. I was born on August 15th. I teach United States History 1 and 2. I have been teaching for a total of two years. Outside of school I enjoy coaching baseball and basketball and watching sports. Everyone should know that I love country music.



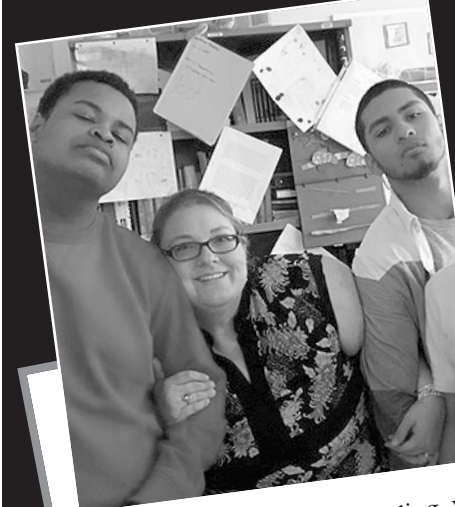
My name is Mrs. Keang Beiler. I was born on Sept. 13. I teach ESL. I have been teaching for a total of seven years. Outside of school, I enjoy reading, gardening, and watching my children play sports. Everyone should know that Jackie Chan is my half-brother.



My name is Mrs. Kimberly Sharonoff. I was born on Jan. 14. I teach freshman/sophomore chorus, junior/senior concert choir, and arts and humanities vocal studio. I have been teaching for 27 years in total and started at the Hazleton Area High School in 2006. In my free time, I enjoy singing and directing church choirs, as well as taking care of my family and household. I live by the saying "never stop learning."



My name is Mr. Jason Turri. I was born on Jan. 18. I teach Biology, environmental biology, and microbiology and genetics. I have been teaching for a total of 17 years. Outside of school I enjoy coaching softball, baseball, and spoiling my nieces. Everyone should know that I was at the World Series in 2008 when the Phillies won.



My name is Mrs. Misty Riedel. I was born on July 1. I teach English. I have been teaching for a total of 18 years. Outside of school I enjoy oil painting, reading, writing in my journal, horseback riding, Latin dancing, listening to music, watching soccer, cooking, and playing games on my phone. My favorite quote is, "Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value." -"Albert Einstein"



My name is Ms. Katelyn Knick. I was born on Mar. 26. I teach chemistry. I have been teaching for a total of five years. Outside of school, I enjoy teaching at Wilkes University, playing with my dogs, and fishing. Everyone should know that I am a coffee addict and drink roughly around five to six large cups a day.

Meet The Teachers!

Meet The Students!

by Thomas A. Holodick

Students were asked the following questions, in which their responses follow.

- Birthdate
- What grade are you in?
- What is your favorite subject?
- What are your interests outside of school?
- What should we know about you?



Hayden Jacobs

I was born on Aug.10, 1998. I am a junior at the Hazleton Area High School and Hazleton Area Career Center. My favorite subject is psychology. Outside of school I enjoy playing the guitar.



Chris Belles

I was born on Dec. 29, 1997. I am a senior at the Hazleton Area Career Center. My favorite subject is biology. Outside of school I enjoy playing and watching sports. Everyone should know that I am an easygoing person.



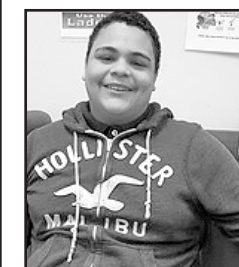
Alibel Pena

I was born on Oct. 22, 1998. I am a senior at the Hazleton Area Career Center. My favorite subject is history. Outside of school I enjoy working out. Everyone should know that I am a friendly and outgoing person.



Alex Elchisak

I was born on Mar. 30, 1998. I am a senior at the Hazleton Area Career Center. My favorite subject is history. Outside of school I enjoy participating in cross country and running. Everyone should know that I am very tall.



Waldo Coo

I was born on May 20, 1999. I am a junior at the Hazleton Area Career Center. My favorite subject is math. Outside of school I enjoy playing video games. Everyone should know that I am a friendly person.



Steven Espinoza

I was born on Apr. 3, 1998. I am a senior at the Hazleton Area Career Center. My favorite subject is math. Outside of school I enjoy playing video games. Everyone should know that I am joining the Marines.



Teachers were asked the following questions, in which their responses follow.

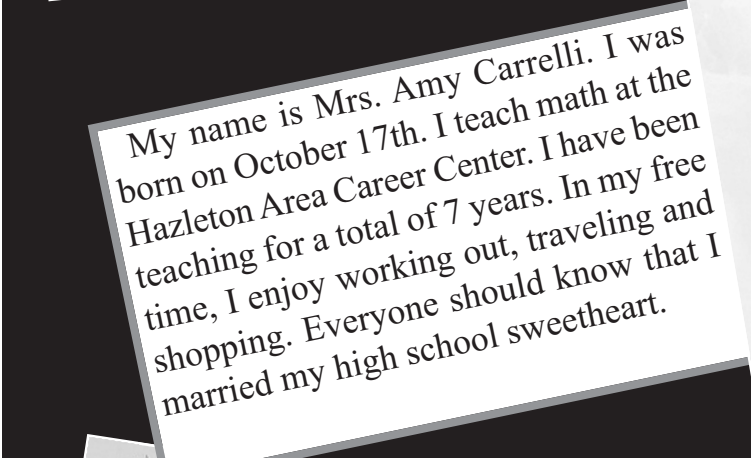
Name
 Birthday
 What subjects do you teach?
 How many years have you been teaching?
 What are your interests outside of school?
 What is something we should know about you?

My name is Mrs. Adrienne Banon. I was born on November 15th. I teach math at the Hazleton Area Career Center. I have been teaching for a total of 7 years. In my free time, I enjoy working out and traveling. Everyone should know that I graduated from the Hazleton Area High School and played softball.



M48

My name is Mr. Michael Joseph. I was born on February 7th. I teach social studies at the Hazleton Area Career Center. I have been teaching for a total of 19 years. In my free time, I enjoy traveling, golf, and my family. Everyone should know that I am a good cook.



My name is Mrs. Amy Carrelli. I was born on October 17th. I teach math at the Hazleton Area Career Center. I have been teaching for a total of 7 years. In my free time, I enjoy working out, traveling and shopping. Everyone should know that I married my high school sweetheart.



My name is Mrs. Michelle Chyko. I was born on October 9th. I teach business education. I have been teaching for a total of 11 years. In my free time, I enjoy time with my family and participating as the FBLA advisor. Everyone should know that I enjoy traveling and have been to Alaska and Japan; also, I love dancing.



My name is Mr. Stephen Batory. I was born on October 16th. I teach computer systems networking at the Hazleton Area Career Center. I have been teaching for a total of 11 years. In my free time, I enjoy playing sports. Everyone should know that my grandmother was related to the original vampire.



My name is Mrs. Daniell Lagana. I was born on July 18th. I teach Read 180 at the Hazleton Area Career Center. I have been teaching for a total of 11 years. In my free time, I enjoy shopping, eating and spending time with my dogs. Everyone should know that I am obsessed with dogs.

HAZLETON AREA MAKES HISTORY!

by Vennee Elaine David

It was November of the year 1919 when President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Nov. 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day.

Why? Because on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, hostilities in the First World War were temporarily ceased between the Allied Nations and Germany. It was also to honor all soldiers who fought in World War I.

The first ever Armistice Day in the United States was observed the following year - Nov. 11, 1919. Small to big businesses were suspended for a period of 2 minutes starting at 11 a.m. in order to participate in parades and public gatherings. In 1938, Armistice Day was declared a national holiday.

Fast forward to June 1, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the legislation that would change the name from "Armistice Day" to "Veterans Day." From then on, Nov. 11 became a day to honor ALL American veterans, not just those who fought and served in the Great War.

And so this year, the Hazleton Area High School staff and students came together to honor local veterans by inviting them to the high school's first-ever annual Veterans Day Program. All veterans were invited including those who have served in the Second World War, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

Students, grades 9 to 12, in the high school showed their most sincere

gratitude by writing letters and poems. Most also have gone beyond that by creating all kinds of arts and crafts; from posters and paintings to three huge flags where students from different classes have included their messages for our veterans.

In addition, many volunteered to help out in the program. Students were divided into groups where a group of five to six students volunteered to greet the veterans, alongside the HAHS principal, Mr. Rocco Petrone. Veterans were then escorted to the library where

they were also welcomed by another group of students and were served breakfast. Furthermore, the HAHS band and chorus performed for the veterans in the auditorium, then a "thank you" compilation video from students were played causing veterans to shed a tear.

Finally, First Sgt. Eric Olsen introduced by Ms. Enrica Bellucci, gave out an outstanding speech talking about his military career, and most of what we can learn from our veterans.

"You can never imagine what we have seen through our eyes," said First Sgt. Eric Olsen, specifying the horrific events that they have witnessed while in the battlefield. He also addressed and thanked those who served in the Vietnam War, also naming them his heroes as they were not welcomed home when the war ended in 1975.

As the program ended, gifts were handed out to the veterans. A booklet full of letters and poems written by students for everyone, as well as flowers for female veterans were handed out by the HAHS student volunteers.

"On this Veterans Day, let us remember the service of our veterans, and let us renew our national promise to fulfill our sacred obligations to our veterans and their families who have sacrificed so much so that we can live free."

Dan Lipinski



Photo by Vennee Elaine David

HAHS students who greeted, assisted, and served veterans during the Veterans Day Program held in the library and the auditorium, on November 10.

Home For Heroes

by Vennee Elaine David

"America's fighting men and women sacrifice much to ensure that our great nation stays free. We owe a debt of gratitude to the soldiers that have paid the ultimate price for this cause, as well as for those who are blessed enough to return from the battlefield unscathed." - Allen Boyd

Recently, Virginia has become the first state in the United States to end homelessness among its veterans.

"This is an important victory in our ongoing efforts to make our Commonwealth the best place on earth for veterans to live, work and raise a family," Gov. McAuliffe said. "However, we must remain committed to keeping homelessness among veterans, and, all Virginians, rare, brief and non-recurring," the governor added.

According to an interview, Gov. McAuliffe strongly believes that this recent success will serve as the "launching pad" to end

chronic homelessness by the end of 2017.

Veterans are at high risk of homelessness. How is it possible that those who have fought, protected, and served this country, have nowhere to come home to, but the streets? Why is it that the government fails to care for men and women on the frontlines? Is the government guilty of malpractice?

How a nation treats its veterans speaks volumes about the character of that nation. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, a shocking 131,000 veterans are homeless on any given night each year and almost 75,000 are either disabled, have a mental disorder such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or PTSD, or both. 43 percent are males meanwhile females make up at least 4 percent.

Veterans swore to defend, fight, and protect our country, our home, and today, they are without one of their own. Need to say more?



Photo by Anthony Francis

"Army Vet. Freedom isn't free," written on a homeless veteran's bag.

Veterans' Challenges: Home vs. Battlefield

by Crisheley Polanco

Vennee Elaine David

Imagine coming home thinking you are finally safe and sound after a dangerous and difficult journey overseas, yet instead, you are faced with more challenges at home than on the battlefield.

Approximately 400,000 veterans have already died waiting to receive Veterans Affairs health care. Majority died before their applications for care were even processed, according to CNN.

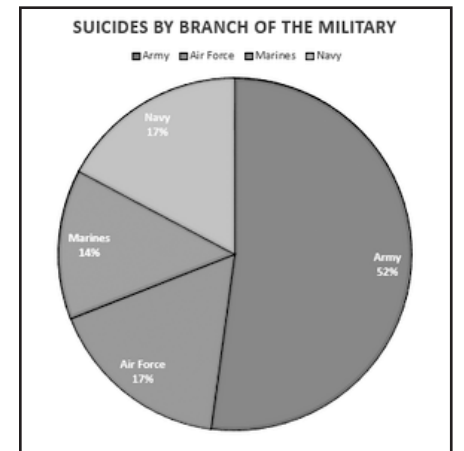
This is only limited to those who are listed in the Department of Veterans Affairs enrollment system. Like many, Navy veteran Thomas Breen died last year even before he could seek medical help. The urgent appointment he needed was not anywhere in sight for him; he passed away from stage 4 bladder cancer.

Breen was not the only veteran who, unfortunately, passed away because of health care delays and long waiting lists. Post-traumatic stress disorder affects millions of Americans every year causing the statistics to soar higher than the previous years. It affects populations like assault survivors, military service members and veterans the most.

Veterans suffer from PTSD both those who have been diagnosed and

those who have been subject to diagnosis. And among veteran respondents, 86.9% did not use or did not receive VA health care. Therefore, for many veterans, it takes an average of 6 months to even set an appointment and seek medical help.

Saying "thank you" to veterans cannot be sufficient; United States veterans must be shown that their accomplishments and efforts on the battlefield and in the Armed Forces matter. Actions speak louder than words!



Pie chart by Vennee Elaine David

Veterans face a multitude of challenges on the Home Front.

Patriots and Presidents

by Mark Kisenwether

It is interesting to note that the general election falls in the same month as Veteran's Day. With candidates vying for attention for the office of United States president, positions on major issues are taken and put out for all to consider.

Ben Carson and Donald Trump on the republican side, and on the democratic side it's a close race between Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton.

Bernie Sanders is a "Social-Democrat" and believes that higher education should be free for everyone. Another thing that Sanders believes is that health care is a right, not a privilege.

Hillary Clinton is the second candidate on the democratic side that is in the limelight because she is trying to become the first woman to become president, and she is the wife of a previous president, Bill Clinton. One

thing she wants to do is have stricter gun laws.

The republican candidates are Ben Carson, and Donald Trump. Donald Trump has a lot of ideas for immigration and how to fix the economy since he has a background with business being a CEO. Trump also has a lot of opinions on a lot of different topics.

Ben Carson is the other Republican candidate that is talked about the most, he is a retired neurosurgeon and he does not have that much of a background in politics. Carson does not believe that climate change is an important thing to worry about. He is also in a close battle Donald Trump for the National GOP Nomination.

Many believe that the strength and integrity of a nation is reflective of the treatment of the country's veterans. If you believe this to be true, perhaps wondering where each candidate stands on veterans' affairs such as health-care, home ownership, and compensation, before you endorse someone for the most important job on earth.

Hometown Honor

by Sarah Wech

On Nov. 10, Hazleton Area High School hosted its first annual Veterans Day Program. Dozens of veterans showed up to enjoy a breakfast served by members of the senior class. Later, they proceeded to the auditorium for a slide show and a performance by the HAHS band and chorus. The importance of Veterans Day, a day to honor and celebrate veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and selflessness in serving, was reinforced.

Speaking with several veterans highlighted this special day. John Bulavage, from Tuscarora, served for 4 years in the Air Force during the Vietnam War. He says he missed everything while at war, but he believed it was his duty to serve because members of his family served before him.

Like John, Frank Rusnak served for "3 years, 2 months, and 29 days" in the Navy during the Vietnam War. He was stationed at Pearl Harbor. Frank's hometown is Hazleton, and he says he missed home cooking the most. He states that it was his privilege and duty to serve his country and is very proud of his decision.

During the

breakfast, Tom Wolfe from Wounded Warriors spoke about his foundation. As a veteran, Tom served in Vietnam War and was stationed in South Vietnam for 2 years.

When speaking with Jim Pius from Wilkes Barre Township, he began to tell me about his experience while serving in the Army during the Vietnam War for 8 years. Jim was stationed in multiple places including Fort Dickson, Fort Jackson, and Fort Gordon. After being caught and kicked out when he tried to join the army at age 14, Jim legitimately enlisted at age 17, and by 17 and a half, he graduated to Drill Sergeant. He became the youngest Drill Sergeant in the history of the United States Army. In 2 years, he was in 13 operations. While at war, he didn't think much of what he was missing out on at home. He is proud of his decision and would do it again because he feels as if he was supposed to be a soldier.

While honoring our Veterans I got to sit down and Speak with Rich Veith and Kenneth Wills. Rich, or Miami as his local soldiers called him, is from West Hazleton and worked with the league for 6 years. He felt as if it was a need to serve and was proud of his decision to do so.

Kenneth is from Hazleton and is currently on leave. He missed his family while away but was proud to serve and protect his country.

Although Veteran's Day is celebrated every year, how many actually know where the holiday came from? Most people know that Veteran's Day is a day to honor Americans who have sacrificed their lives for our country, but there is more to the story than you may have realized.

Cyndee Hunsicker served for 16 years and fought in the 1991 Gulf War. She says that while she was away at war she missed everything back home. She is proud she made the decision to serve her country.

Before proceeding to the auditorium for the honor program, I sat down with Francis Skawinsk. Francis is from Hazleton and served in the Vietnam War for 3 years. After joining the war, in 6 months he turned 19. He says that he is proud of his decision to serve his country because he knew he did not want to attend school and because everyone else was doing it.

While many celebrations are held world wide, these veterans decided to stick around their home town and celebrate a new and different way at Hazleton Area High School. Regardless of what day of the week on which it falls, Veteran's Day not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veteran's Day: a celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

As President Wilson once proclaimed, "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."

And, that's exactly how the Hazleton Area HS community made local veterans feel at the first annual Veteran's Day Program.

Although Hazleton was not the only place to commemorate veterans. On Nov. 6, President Barack Obama saluted the servicemen and the sacrifices of America's service members, past and present.

President Obama proclaimed Veteran's Day 2015 a day to "reflect on the immeasurable burdens borne by so few in the name of so many, and we rededicate ourselves to supporting those who have worn America's uniform and the families who stand alongside them."

"The United States military is the strongest, most capable fighting force the world has ever known. The brave men and women of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard demonstrate a resolute spirit and unmatched selflessness. On Veteran's Day, may we reflect on the immeasurable burdens borne by soldiers and we rededicate ourselves to supporting those who have worn America's uniform and the families who stand alongside them. Our veterans left everything they knew and loved behind, to fight to build a better America for people they won't ever meet. Not only should we pay respect for Veterans on November 11th, we should show them great gratitude everyday."



All photos by Rachel Wech

Click It or Ticket

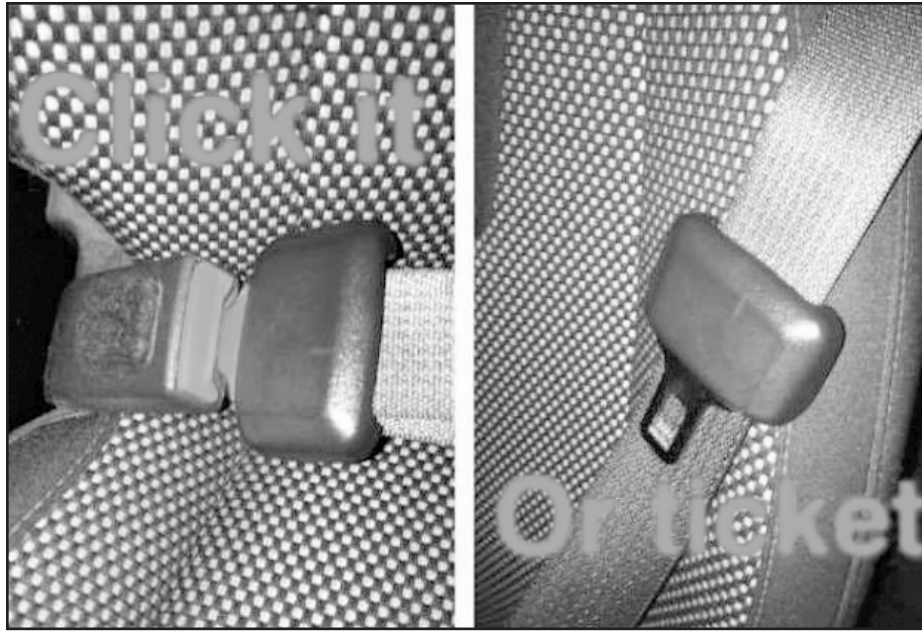
by Chloe Kotzer

Nobody thinks they are going to suddenly lose a loved one in an automobile accident. Yet, accidents while driving are the number one cause of death in children and young adults. Fifty-five percent of young adults ages thirteen to twenty that died in car crashes were not wearing their seatbelts. Accidents are the second cause of death for people twenty-five and older. Seatbelts save lives. Unfortunately younger drivers are less likely to wear their seatbelts; they are also more likely to be in a car crash. "Click it or ticket" is a commonly-heard saying, as well as a commonly-ignored saying. However, that is one of the less significant reasons to wear your seatbelt. Paying a fine may be an unwanted expense, but it is far cheaper than paying with your life.

Everyone should strive to be a stellar driver. If small precautions are taken, it can make the road a safer place. From a general survey taken, most Hazleton Area students and faculty do wear their seatbelts. From that survey, some students said they were less likely to wear their seatbelts in the back seat of a vehicle.

Good seatbelt habits should be taught at a young age; however it is never too late to learn a good habit. An HAHS faculty member sets out to do just that. She makes sure to always tell students "Have a good weekend, and wear your seatbelt."

Often curious as to why she was so redundant with her seatbelt awareness, students assumed it was common sense. Getting to the bottom of her seatbelt suggestions, it just so happens she was involved in a car accident, before she became keen on seatbelt safety. The results of the accident,



Photos and collage by Chloe Kotzer

Pictured above is a collage depicting what you should be doing while driving or in a vehicle!

though a difficult time for her, taught her the importance of seatbelts. Aside from the teacher learning a lesson, the accident allows her to pass her experience on to others, in hopes they will learn to buckle up. During this difficult time, she had to undergo surgery and was unable to compete in cheerleading activities, which was very important to her. Hopefully drivers can learn from past experiences so they will not be involved in future misfortunes.

Some students believe the penalties should be greater for those who do not follow the laws of seatbelts. These same students said that it is more often you see a fatality due to someone not wearing their seatbelt, rather than someone being punished for not wearing their seatbelt. Perhaps it is time to increase the punishments, as well as enforce the seatbelt law more strictly. Wise up and buckle up.

Tenacious Travel Tips

by Chloe Kotzer and Thomas A. Holodick

Driving safety has greatly increased over the course of many years. Unfortunately, accidents will occur; that's why they're called accidents. Although technology improvements help increase safety, sometimes technology can backfire. Young drivers should always try to be as safe as possible. Below is a list of "Tenacious Travel Tips" the "Cougar Chit-Chat" has compiled to keep you confident behind the wheel.

--Stay alert! Always keep your eyes open and on the lookout for obstructions such as animals and pedestrians.

--Stay awake! If you feel drowsy while driving, you may be tired. Cautiously pull over and take a quick power nap. According to studies, sleepy driving isn't safe driving and is equivalent to driving drunk. Safety is key, and so is sleep!

--Ring! Ring! "Hello?" Safety calling put down your phone! It's never safe to use your phone while driving; just don't do it!

--Stay prepared! Keep your car stocked. Have a blanket, flashlight, and other safety equipment handy. It will be convenient if you ever need something.

--Plan accordingly! Leave five to ten minutes early so you don't have to speed. You will have plenty of time to arrive and if there is heavy traffic, you'll still arrive on time.

--Spare some change? In case of an emergency, keep a stash of cash handy. It can make a drastic difference if in need!

--Be cautious! Never speed, drive aggressively, or tailgate others! Share the road peacefully!

--Choose your passengers wisely! Rowdy passengers can be a distraction, as well as a safety hazard. Drive with people who are responsible and well behaved.

Bumper To Bumper Problems

by Thomas A. Holodick

Safety is a main concern at the Hazleton Area High school. The faculty and staff at the Hazleton Area School District always make sure everyone is kept safe. Following up on safety concerns, is the Hazleton Area High School safe? The answer is yes. Safety measures are forcefully intact district wide.

Students and faculty attending any school in the HASD are required to participate in metal detector screening. While metal detector screening may be a hassle for some, most people find it to be a positive aspect of the Hazleton Area School District. Numerous students feel safe in the high school and can always count on security if any negativity arises.

But unfortunately, one of the main and repetitive problems throughout the HAHS and HACC are parking lot concerns. Over many years, the student parking lot has dealt with numerous accidents and accounts of reckless driving.

Experiencing negative problems, security has enforced measures to halt reckless driving. The main question is, do

you feel safe parking your vehicle in the student parking lot?

In a recent survey, students were asked what they would do to improve the student parking lot and everyone questioned agreed that one major improvement needs to be made.

Natalie Alcantara, Brandon Gonzalez, Skillee Gould, Vicky Neira, and Hunter Vanblargan all unanimously agreed, stating that, "the tractor trailer parked alongside the Hazleton Area Career Center needs to be removed."

They feel the tractor trailer, "poses a threat on student and driving safety because it impairs one's vision while trying to merge into oncoming traffic."

Along with removing the tractor trailer, Brandon Gonzalez, Skillee Gould, and Hunter Vanblargan feel that, "the addition of a second entrance would benefit drivers, because it would prevent bumper to bumper traffic jams and enable traffic to flow more freely."

Hunter also stated that he would, "like to see trash and recycling cans in the student parking lots."

With the addition of trash cans students would be, "less likely to litter in the parking lots."

Natalie and Vicky also agreed that, "numerous potholes need to be repaired because they can damage vehicle's suspension and tires."

In addition to repairing potholes, Vicky would like to see the "speed bumps" replaced with "speed humps" because she feels, "speed humps would be more effective in slowing down fast drivers."

As one can see, with potential reinforced measures to improve our student parking lot, one can feel safe parking their vehicle in the student parking lot. Drive with caution; safety first!



Photos and collage by Thomas A. Holodick

Pictured above are photos of recurring problems in the student parking lot.

Lazy Litterbugs

by Chloe Kotzer



Littering is an example of pure laziness. Although not all litter comes from litterbugs, some may be left behind accidentally, or possibly trash spilled while being collected. However, litter can be prevented. Litter attracts more litter, some people think long the

lines that it is okay to leave litter behind, if there is already litter there.

Perhaps it is inconvenient to keep your trash with you until a trash can is available. Though, the effects of littering are far more inconvenient. According to donttrashaz.com, more than 25,000 car accidents per year are linked to litter. Unsecure loads can result in fallen debris, creating unsafe roadways.

Littering is a contagious bad habit. It can be seen indoors as well as outdoors. Care-

less tossing of old papers and other trash in the hallways creates a hideous sight. Besides the horrid sight litter leaves on once beautiful areas, it is also dangerous to your health. Litter can leach into your sewer systems, clogging them, or possibly pass through to end up in areas such as the bay. Millions of taxpayers' dollars are spent yearly in an attempt to clean up litter, money that should be going to a more prominent cause.

Frequently, people do not believe throwing their cigarette butts out is littering. Several people are wrong; cigarette butts are, in fact, litter. Each cigarette butt takes twelve years to break down, during that time toxic elements seep into soil and waterways.

Over 7,000 phone calls are received yearly for officers to rescue animals trapped or harmed due to litter-related incidents. The figure is most likely much higher; take into consideration animal owners going directly to vets, as well as many injured wild animals that are never found.

So throw away your bad littering habits and start throwing your trash away!



Should Cell Phones be Permitted in School?

by Ally Hudock and Jessica Murman

It is very clear that modern schools are impacted by technology. Cell phones, calculators, and computers have all changed the way students and teachers think, learn, and go about their school careers whether they realize it or not.

Cell phones are necessary in the 21st century. But for years, schools have opposed policies allowing students to have cell phones present in the classrooms. Being realistic, cell phones are disruptive to the educational environment. Ringing cell phones disrupt teaching and learning. Text messages and the Internet have been used for cheating, and cell phones with cameras can be used to take inappropriate pictures or videos of students and teachers.

Calculators that allowed students access to mathematical concepts easier and faster than using the traditional pencil and paper were pre-cursors to modern technology such as computers. Computers have also changed many aspects of education. Teaching methods even began to incorporate computer technology. The first computer was used by Harvard University for the in 1944 to prepare students for solving real-world problems in mathematics, engineering, and science. Calculators are another tool that have changed many aspects of education.

The same idea is used in modern classrooms today. Most teachers would agree that computer technology is



Photo by Thomas A. Holodick

a necessity in the modern educational world. Mobile Assisted Language Learning, or "MALL," is creating a buzz in the new millennium. MALL is language learning using mobile devices such as: cell phones (including iPhone); MP3 or MP4 players (e.g. iPods); Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs such as Palm Pilot, Blackberry, etc.).

According to current research, 90% of all people on earth have a mobile device, and 41% have more than

1. Both the device and the individual using it defines the "m" in Mobile Assisted Language Learning. Eighty-five percent of mobile devices have web browsers on them.

According to researchers, education must be re-conceptualized for learners in the mobile age. The potential for student learning will be limitless as long as educators are equipped with the materials to utilize the sophisticated materials that are at students' fingertips.

In schools that permitted students to have cell phones, seventy-one percent of students sent or received text messages on their cell phones in class. Even in schools that ban cellphones completely, there is still a shocking fifty-eight percent of students who still used them.

When students were asked about why they cannot use their phones during school, the standard teacher response would be that teenage students cannot multitask. To argue that point,

there was a survey conducted among the HAHS students. Out of twenty students who were asked if they can get all of their work done, but still use phones, sixteen said they are capable.

Society is changing very rapidly, especially with technology. But, rather than treating such devices as distractions, why not use them for good? Perhaps in the very near future all students will be going to the "MALL" for their educational experience.

Does Work Interfere with School?

by Ally Hudock and Adam Falatko

Usually right when teenagers turn sixteen, they are told by their parents to get a job. This is a very controversial topic since some students argue they do not have time to get a job because of school and sports. Parents want to encourage their children to gain responsibility as soon as they are able to; plus they can make spending money of their own. On the other side, there are parents who would prefer their child to not have a job while attending school.

For anyone who attends school and also has a job knows that sometimes the two interfere with each other, but the real question is: can students handle having a job and going to school at the same time? Since this topic is very controversial, the opinions of other students were taken into consideration.

A senior, James Brielmeier, from the Hazleton Area Academy of Sciences said that sometimes school does interfere with his work schedule.

He also stat-

ed, "Sometimes I need to call of in order to finish all my homework, or to apply for college."

Another student, a junior, Mark Kisenwether says, "I do not have a job because I really would rather have A's in school, and a job would prevent me from being focused on my grades."

From Hazleton Area Academy of Sciences, Liz Shrader, a junior says, "I have been able to manage both my job and work very well, but sometimes it can get stressful."

Statistics show

that today, teenagers attending high-school are feeling more stress than adults. Add work on-top of that and the stress levels are through the roof. It is clear that some teenagers are capable of managing their school and work life, but unfortunately it is a struggle for many. Many teenagers will get home from school with barely any time to eat, get ready, and finally leave for work. Most times working teens would not be home until a very late hour; leaving little time for them to complete their assignments and obtain an acceptable amount of sleep to

attend school the day after.

Kayla Cunfer, a senior at the Hazleton Area High-school says, "School work clashes with having a job because it makes me feel really stressed. I go to school five days a week then work weekends from three to midnight, and some days when I work I do not have time to finish school work."

Aries Klesh, another senior from the High-school explains, "I feel that teachers should understand how busy a student is when they have a job. Even though I am a student, my entire life does not revolve around school."



Photos by Adam Falatko

Emily Barazza, Gabe Pujols, Kayla Mrazik, Abby Horan, Kristen Paisley, Lex Rivera, Chelsea Diaz, Madison Hauze, and Anthony Palaggi suffer from this epidemic.

Text Neck

by Adam Falatko

It is common to see very young kids equipped with top of the line mobile phones. Children are getting their hands on more technologically advanced phones day by day. Some may argue that this is perfectly fine, but do you really want to build a generation of people who are dependent on their phones for the rest of their lives?

Not only does the increasing use of mobile phones amongst young children come with a future of dependency and

possibly addiction, but it also can come with a series of negative health effects.

Dr. James Carter, a chiropractor, has come to the conclusion that many teenage patients are suffering from the "text neck"- when the neck obtains a backwards curve due to the constant hunching over to look at a mobile phone. This curve in your neck is no joke, overusing your phone may be bringing you serious spinal or neck damages that are not easy to be fixed.

HAHS

Your Mood Can Save Someone Else

by Crischely Polanco

They say if someone likes a person it can affect their emotions and ruin their whole day, but based on something called “empathy.” Empathy means feeling for another person as if you were experiencing what they were.

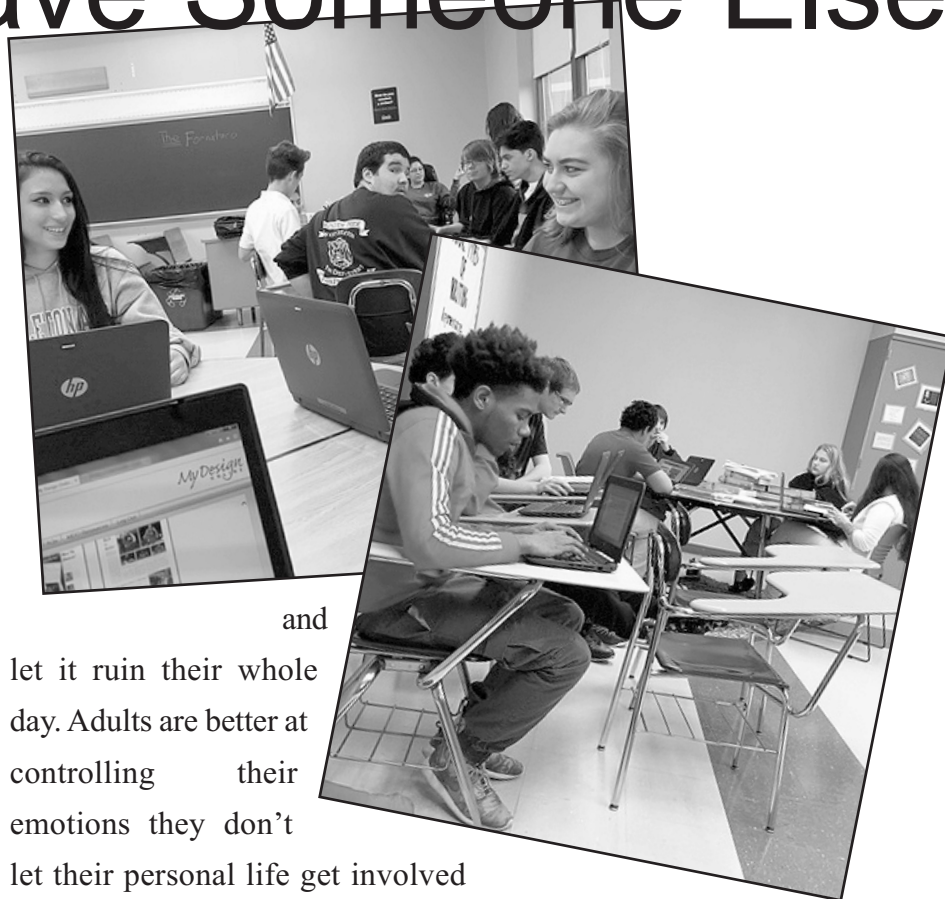
This isn’t entirely true because it can also be caused on the way someone acts on a defensive mode, which also can explain how their mood changes. For example, say someone were to wake up in a great mood, but due to a friend having a bad mood caused them to lose their good mood for one that is mean and annoyed which the cycle would continue on to someone else.

Now, the more logical way to

avoid someone’s day being ruined is by just letting the person cool down or simply cheer them up by trying to make them laugh or smile because something as simple as a joke can cheer up someone’s whole day.

What if your day was going wrong wouldn’t you want someone to cheer you up by the littlest thing? We all know people have their moments where they don’t want to be bothered, but out in the real world they must learn to suppress that, because if you are in a bad mood your boss can’t just let you take of the day or avoid you completely when work needs to be done.

Teenagers are the majority who can’t control their emotions



and let it ruin their whole day. Adults are better at controlling their emotions they don’t let their personal life get involved with their professional life maybe that is why they should receive more respect than there are given by most students.

Photos by Chelsa Scarcella Keara Plaza and McKenzie Wesner are all smiles while they complete their essays in the Writing Lab.

Teenage Stress: Fact or Fiction

by Crischely polanco

Adults say that teenagers and kids do not know what stress is until they have had bills to pay. Scientific studies show that teenagers are just as or even more stressed than adults.

With simple everyday things, teenagers get stressed and it affects them drastically. Have you ever gotten really nervous for a big test and can’t think right or sleep right? Well, you have gone through stress.

Adults have adapted to stress over the years, so it doesn’t necessarily mean they aren’t stressed as well they just can handle and control it better.

Teenagers deal with things like work, school, and try to have fun and relax, but it never works. People say things such as, "You're young; have fun," but things get stressful and too much to handle. Oftentimes, fun isn’t the first thing on their mind you have to prepare for the real world, and

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prevenziondel suicidio.org

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"We Can't Help Everyone, But Everyone Can Help Someone"

Ad design courtesy of Catholic Social Services

If you, or someone you know, is ever feeling overwhelmed or depressed, reach out for help.

It can be a bit overwhelming.

Now kids they have it easy they just go to their own little worlds which is the opposite for teenagers and adults. This year, there has been many teen pregnancies so the stress level increases. Mothers have to worry about themselves and their children, so the real world hits them hard.

HAHS students surveyed

state that they have felt stressed. The topic that stresses students out the most appear to be the amount of homework, juggling clubs/sports with schoolwork, family issues, and employment.

The average of stress rate of a teenager on a 10-limit scale is 5.8 while adults are 5.1.

Fast Forward HAHS Grads

by Sarah Wech

Graduation Day is always full of opposites--cheers and solemnity, memories and dreams, childhood and adulthood, goodbyes and hellos. Hazleton Area High School is here to help send seniors off into the promising lives that await. They work to make themselves and their parents proud.

Graduation is a milestone moment in every high school student's life. Since 2002, states have been under pressure from the federal government to increase their graduation rates.

Researchers talk about the ABCs: attendance, behavior and course performance. A large number of students said that they felt bored, frustrated or disillusioned; this process was dubbed as a "fadeout."

Yet, there are many success stories all thanks to students, faculty, and principals here at HAHS.

Mikey Saleeba graduated in 2014 and attends Penn State University. His favorite teacher is Mr. Saleeba because he relates to the students like no other teacher can. He misses playing football the most and says football and his father helped him the most throughout highschool.

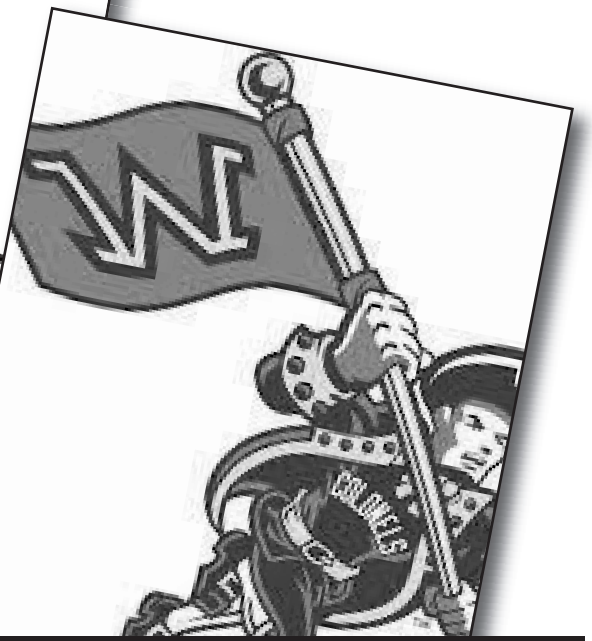
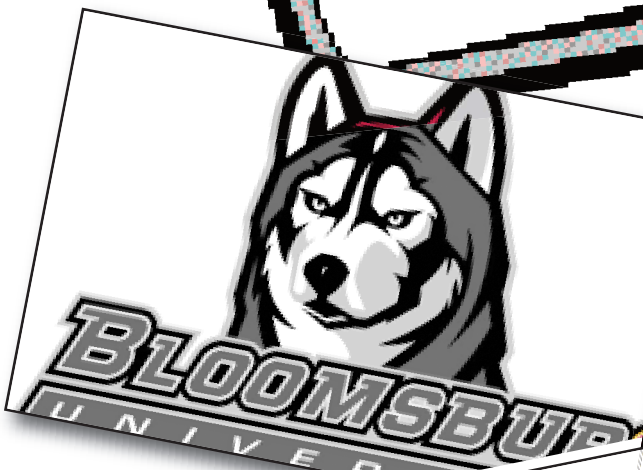
Megan Bobish, a 2014 graduate, is now attending Temple University and majoring in athletic training. Her favorite teachers are Mr. Avillion, Mrs. Zullo, Mrs. Nice, Mrs. Caccese, and Mrs. Starrick. She misses helping out at the football field and in the main office with Sam and Mr. Petrone. Throughout high school she states having teachers like Mrs. Matsago and Mr. Mazurek prepared her for the college experience. Although Megan is a full time student, during the summer and on school breaks, she works part time as a cashier at Boyer's Food Market.

HAHS Senior College Acceptances

After much preparation at HAHS, graduates are on their way. "So be sure when you step, Step with care and great tact. And remember that life's A Great Balancing Act. And will you succeed? Yes! You will, indeed!"

--Dr. Seuss, "Oh, the Places You'll Go!"

Natalie Alcantara - Duquesne University, Arcadia University, York College, Bloomsburg University
Gerald Andreas - Bloomsburg University
Mackenzie Auer - Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Kasey Beyer - Wilkes University
Laura Cahalan - University of Pittsburgh
Eric Caraballo - Indiana University of PA
Nelissa Casado - Duquesne University
Mary Joy Campbell - University of Pittsburgh
Cameron Carcia - Penn State Hazleton
Ashley Corrigan - Penn State University
Venec Elaine David - University of Alberta, McGill University, University of Toronto
Lindsay Dodics - Wilkes University, Indiana University of PA
John Dietrich - Indiana University of PA
Jacob Diaz - Penn State University
Elioger Echavaria - Eastern University
Sarah Gordimer - Alvernia University
Gracie Greco - DeSales University, Philadelphia University, Drexel University, Ursinus College
Evan Greschner - Kings College
Collin Gussner - Temple University
Thomas A. Holodick - Penn State University
Keith Hudock - Temple University, University of Pittsburgh, Penn State University
Lauren Hunsinger - Wilkes University
Kyle Kaschak - Penn College of Technology
Rebecca Kaschak - Misericordia University
Nathan Koschak - King's College
Chloe Kotzer - Wilkes University
Bailey Lutz - Wilkes University
Kaylie Mahon - Duquesne University
Licette Medina - Indiana University of PA
Bailey Lutz - Wilkes University
Kirstie Moni - Luzerne County Community College
Megan Moratto - Bloomsburg University, Kutztown University
Emmanuel Morobol - Johnson University
John Murray - Temple University, DeSales University
Duke Navarro - Clarion University, Mansfield University
Morgan O'Hara - Susquehanna University, Wilkes University
Justin Olander - Temple University, University of Pittsburgh
Morgan Panse - East Stroudsburg University, Bloomsburg University
Brook Parise - Luzerne County Community College
Alfonso Pondla - Penn State Hazleton, Bloomsburg University
Johnny Pepen - University of Pennsylvania, Georgetown University, Carnegie Mellon University, American University, University Chicago
Natalie Porowski - Kutztown University
Anthony Petrale - Temple University
Randy Pineda - University of Maryland, Eastern Shore University
Bobby Planutis - Eidelton Academy
Isabella Plaza - Lock Haven University
Tyler Picholsky - Bloomsburg University
Michele Robasky - Waynesburg University, McDaniel College
Isabelle Ruggiero - Kutztown University
Jake Sachse - Bloomsburg University
Kara Sanford - Providence College
Celia Sokolofski - Bloomsburg University, East Stroudsburg University, Indiana University of PA
Kendall Sozar - Delaware Valley College
Victoria Sozar - Pennsylvania College of Technology
Jude Stefaulk - Susquehanna University
Mackenzie Yori - Bloomsburg University, West Chester University
Wister Yuhar - Bloomsburg University



Pride Ambition Motivation Determination Loyalty Success

Mechanical vs. Wooden You Decide

by Samantha Caba

What are the advantages of having a mechanical pencil, rather than a wooden pencil? What's the difference between both pencils? This article has information on both mechanical and wooden pencils.

Even though the mechanical pencil is not like a wooden pencil, it has lead that comes in different sizes depending on the size of the pencil. The mechanical pencil is preferred to be called a "lead pencil." The lead of the pencil won't snap easily depending on the pressure that is put on the lead. While mechanical pencils are not as expressive regarding line width, they are better suited for technical drawings including art.

Wooden pencils are lighter in weight than the mechanical pencil itself. Wooden pencils are usually thinner than a mechanical of the same lead width or smaller. Wood is more pleasant to touch rather than plastic or metal, granted that mechanical pencils with wooden casing are not the most accessible ones. Wooden pencils are a lot cheaper than a mechanical pencil! If the wooden pencil is dropped, the pencil won't break (meaning the pen-

cil itself, not the lead). If the wooden pencils get slightly dull, they can be sharpened; but, a mechanical pencil of small lead diameter lead might need to be rotated. The wooden pencils are great for precision work such as an essay or a test.

If the lead doesn't snap often, it can draw a long time with just one lead piece. This is possible because wooden pencils can be sharpened too often or the tip of the lead can snap while being sharpened. They offer uniformity of line width over a great period of time. The lead pencils are also expandable and last longer because anyone can buy a pack of lead and keep reusing the lead pencil. A package of lead costs about \$1.79 to \$5.00 depending on the type of lead. The wooden pencils truly are one of the greatest technological inventions like the original tech toy, providing the springboard for launching all expressions of art, design and communications.

One pencil has the potential to delete its own errors and beat out an infinite number of drum solos! A wooden pencil is uncomfortable unless one buys a pencil gripper. The pencil gripper is used for when the hand gets tired and uncomfortable.

Pencils are found everywhere...except a sharpened one when it's needed!

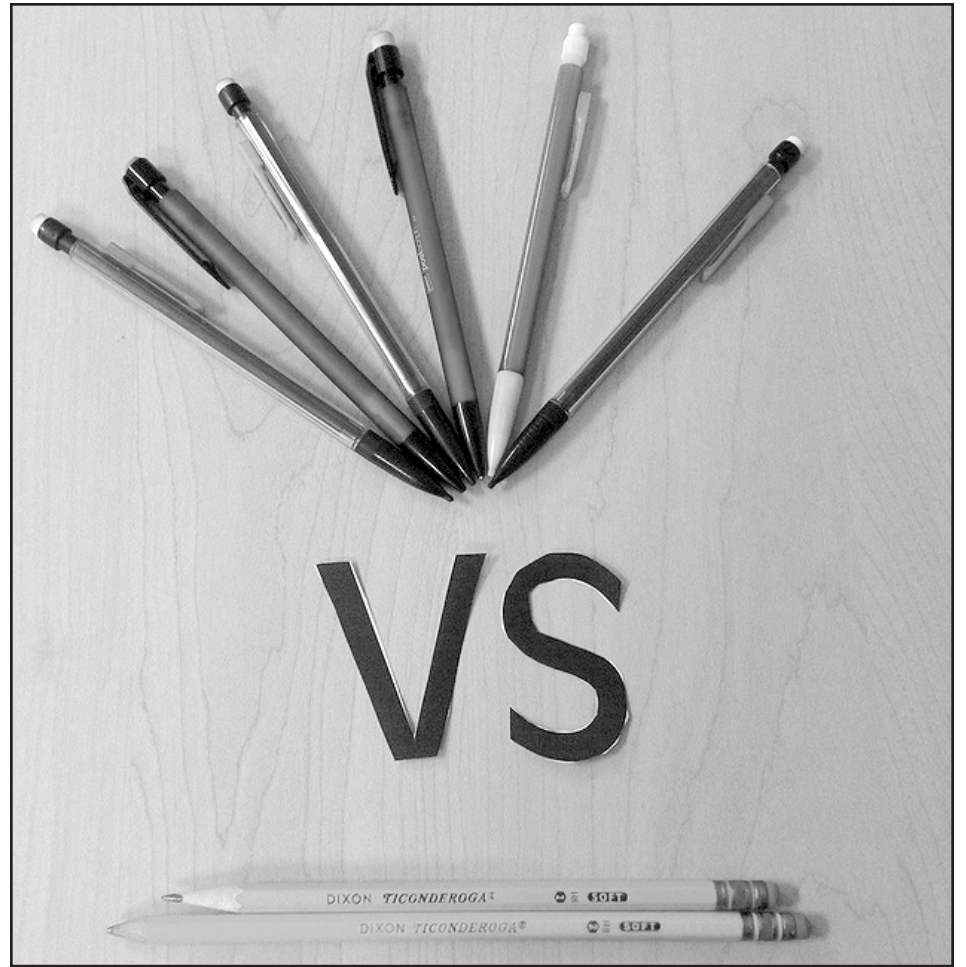


Photo by Samantha Caba

Writing utensils are put to the test--ready, set, write!

Planet Saved by Mealworms? Worth the Energy?

by Samantha Caba

Did you know mealworms can save the planet? Who knew that tiny worms can live off a diet of Styrofoam and other types of plastic. Plastic has finally met its match: the small, brownish, squirmy mealworm is here to save earth!

Researchers have learned that inside a mealworm's gut, there are microorganisms that are able to make a common form of plastic.

"Environmental Science and Technology" by co-authors Professor Jun Yang and his current doctorate student Yu Yang of Beihang University, and Stanford University engineer Wei-Min Wu found that perhaps mealworms can help solve the plastic pollution problem affecting planet earth.

The research documented 100 mealworms that consumed 34 to 39 milligrams of Styrofoam, which is about the weight of a pill, every day of their lives. Scientists also paid attention to the mealworm's overall health and saw that larvae that ate a diet of Styrofoam only could transform the plastic they ate into

carbon dioxide, worm biomass, and biodegradable waste. This waste seemed safe to use in soil for plants and even crops.

Being able to find insects that can safely break down the plastic is critical to potentially solving the problem of what to do with all the plastic consumers use. Other insects, such as cockroaches, can also consume plastic, but they have not shown bio degradation (to decay and become absorbed by the environment). With the United States producing about 33 million tons of plastic every year, with less than 10% being recycled, the mealworm could help offer a solution to the mounting waste created by people.

Even if mealworms can help with plastic waste management, everyone around the world needs to become better at recycling. Plastic does not disappear on its own. Everything humans throw out made of plastic will be here at least 500 years from now so recycling is the only best option.

A change in human behavior is crucial. So, stop purchasing products that are in plastic containers. With a little effort and some help from the mealworms, the only planet with human life will sustain itself for centuries to come.

by Jessica Murman

Yes, everyone knows that energy drinks supply tons of energy, but is that the only thing it supplies? Unfortunately not.

Having just one energy drink can cause short-term changes in healthy adults and children that, overtime, could increase their risk of heart disease, a new study finds.

In the study, participants who drank one 16-ounce can of Rockstar energy drink had higher blood pressure and higher hormone levels than before they consumed it.

The hormones that appear after consuming the energy drink are called "Norepinephrine," and it is a cousin of

the hormone adrenaline.

Because of the vast array of ingredients in energy drinks, it may make the consumer more likely to produce side effects that are more dangerous than beverages containing just caffeine alone.

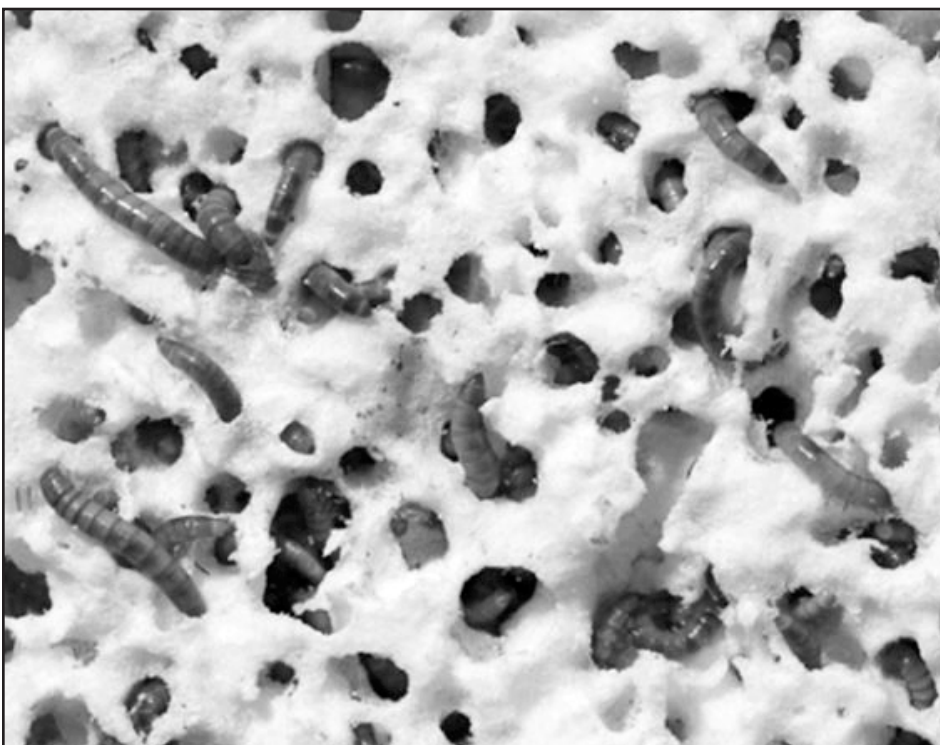
Some side effects are:

- 1-Heart palpitations
- 2-Tremor/Shaking
- 3-Restlessness
- 4-Dizziness
- 5-Chest pain
- 6-Respiratory distress
- 7-Insomnia

"Or, maybe, just drink water to hydrate and replenish,"

according to this writer's source information.

So, the moral of the story is, don't believe everything said about energy drinks, and they are in no way, shape, or form healthy. Be sure to be safe and cautious while drinking them, or maybe just drink a water instead.



Back to Ballin'

Get Ready for a NBA Season Filled with Excitement

by Alan Bersavage

A new year in the NBA will bring many surprises, and also bring things that many predicted. Many teams will look to make a push for the playoffs while other teams look to improve from last season.

The top 3 draft picks look to help their teams get back on track this year, Karl-Anthony Towns of the Timberwolves, D'Angelo Russell of the Lakers, and Jahlil Okafor of the 76ers. Lamarcus Aldridge, Greg Monroe, and Demarre Carroll are among the top acquisitions that teams made late last year and dur-

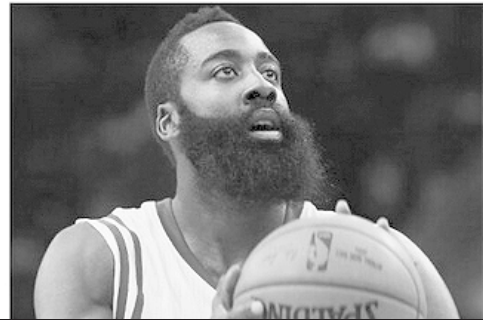


Photo Collage by Alan Bersavage; photos courtesy of ESPN Copyright 2015

Pictured above are LeBron James, Steph Curry, James Harden, Anthony Davis, and Kevin Durant who look to make a run at the Championship this season.

ing the offseason.

For a handful of teams, the NBA championship is in their sights. The defending champion Golden State Warriors look to repeat and are one of the favorites to win it all again this year. They have the same players returning from

last year including the NBA MVP Stephen Curry, sharpshooter Klay Thompson, and NBA Finals MVP Andre Iguodala.

Other favorites to win the championship include last year's Eastern Conference Champs, the Cleveland Cavaliers with 4-

time MVP LeBron James, the San Antonio Spurs and the Los Angeles Clippers.

Other questions also linger, Will Derrick Rose stay healthy? How will the Lakers fare with Kobe back in the lineup? And Will the Thunder win their first ring?

One thing is for sure,

it will be a fun season to watch with fans tuning in every week. It will come down to the very end with one team reigning supreme.

Cougar Ballers Back in Business

Cougar Boys' Basketball Ready to Start Their District Campaign

by Jake Sachse

Coach: Mike Joseph
Last Year's Record: 20-6

Outlook according to Coach Joseph: "With 14 returning players, 7 of which played varsity basketball last year, we have much more experience as a unit.

The guys are more mature and we have a chance to get more players into the rotation. Bobby (Planutis) is going to be great for us this year, but it

won't be a one-man show. This year we have a lot of depth compared to previous years, both older players and underclassmen will be in the mix."

The Varsity and Junior Varsity teams consist of 21 players total. Dante Biasi, Michael

Cusatis, Jacob Diaz, Da'Mir Faison, Joe Garula, Nolan Genasevich, Bobby Planutis, Jeff Planutis, Shane Planutis, and Josh Samec fill the Varsity ros-

ter. Nathan Begg, Aaron Kellmer, Kobe Jackson, Frank Mussoline, Tito Nieves, Adrian Otero, Isaac Perez, Daivion REeves, Scott Shamany, and Ryan Wolk represent the JV squad.

Both Coach Joseph and the team are very excited about the upcoming season ahead.



Photo Courtesy of citizensvoice.com Copyright 2015

Pictured is Bobby Planutis putting up two points in overtime against Crestwood in a win last year.

Key Players



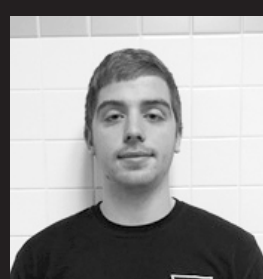
Bobby Planutis: "We have 75% of our scoring and 70% of our rebounding back from last year. It's going to be a good year."



Dante Biasi: "We have a lot of young talent, along with our seniors. Crestwood; January 9th; Be there!"



Michael Cusatis: "A lot of depth will hopefully lead to some medals around our necks. Watch out for us."



Shane Planutis: "It's going to be a good season. A lot of height combined with a lot of our scoring is back for this year."



Word Search

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

Books

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Animal Farm | Deer Park | Dune |
| Go Ask Alice | Pride and Prejudice | On The Road |
| Divine Comedy | Black Rites | Siddhartha |
| As I Lay Dying | Red Dragon | If This is a Man |
| Brave New World | Story of O | Boy in Darkness |
| Christine | The Rights of Man | Bleachers |
| Foundation | Leviathan | Middlesex |
| Good Omens | Vietnam Victory | |

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Sudoku

9				6			5	8
8			7	9				
5	3	6						
			2			8		7
	4						6	
1		2			7			
						5	4	3
				5	3			2
6	5			1				9

Fill all the blank squares with the correct numbers. In a 9 by 9 square Sudoku game:

- * Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order
- * Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order
- * Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9



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