



The Castle Caller

FREE

A Student Newspaper

Fall Edition 2013

Metal Detectors Here to Stay

By Amya Torres*
Junior Reporter

The installation of the new metal detectors in all schools in the Hazleton Area School District brought a lot of discussion amongst students and teachers this summer.

Hazleton Elementary Middle School (HEMS) principal Ms. DeRose thinks the metal detectors are a helpful and safe addition to the school. They detect things that should not be brought into the school because they are unsafe.

Q: Do the metal detectors make you feel safe?

DeRose: Yes they do.

Q: How are things going?

DeRose: Very well. The children are getting in quickly and there hasn't been many issues.

Q: How long are the detectors going to last?

DeRose: It's a permanent thing the school needs to be safe.

Q: If there ever is an issue, what would you do?

DeRose: Our SRO (Student Rescue Officer) and security will handle it...we have a crisis plan we will follow.

Officer Senape is the SRO for HEMS. He agrees with Ms. DeRose that the metal detectors are a good thing and keep everybody safe. It is his first year here at the Castle. Recently this reporter had the chance to speak with him to see how things are going.

Q: Do the metal detectors make you feel safer?

Senape: Yes, it prevents anything from happening and any weapons getting into the school.



One of the two, new metal detectors stands in the lobby of Hazleton Elementary Middle School. The metal detectors were installed over the summer and were put into use from the first day of school in the 2013-2014 school year.

through the lines. He also isn't excited about waiting in line in the cold.

Students have been instructed to bring as little as possible through the lines. Many students have been coming to

school with several pencil cases and school supplies that are not needed. The less the students bring, the faster the lines will go.

Sixth grader **Gabriel Fabien** also agrees the metal detectors make the school safer because they eliminate the possibility of a trespasser being in the school. Fabien is not bothered by the metal detectors. He actually finds the whole thing kind of fun.

HEMS student **JenElis Roman** had a few things to say about the metal detectors, as well. Roman agrees they make the school safer, "especially because of what happened in Nevada."

Roman said, "It's ok...it's protecting us."

Seventh grader **Shaylin Panco** thinks another school

rule isn't necessary now because of the metal detectors.

"I think since we have the metal detectors we shouldn't have to wear uniforms and we shouldn't have to have clear book bags."

She does say the whole process of going through the metal detectors does take some getting use to, but agrees that they make her feel safer.

Finally, seventh grader **Francesca Taylor** makes it unanimous by agreeing the detectors provide much better security and prevention if someone trying to harm students. She don't like waiting in line though, especially when it is cold.

The metal detectors are a necessary addition to schools around the country. With everyone's cooperation, things will run smoothly. There's no use in complaining because they are here to stay. And we are all lucky to have them!

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INSIGHT

Halloween Fun!



HOLIDAY FEATURES

Halloween Fright Night

By Lisa McDonough
Junior Reporter

It was the time of year again when the vampires come out, the zombies dig out of their graves, and the witches dust off their brooms. Halloween is the spooky time of year almost everyone loves. The time of year when the elementary kids get a parade to show off their costumes for everyone to see, and the middle/high school kids got to run through the night.

As usual, Mr. Forte brought the HAHS Cougar Marching Band members down to our school to lead the parade. I asked some 7th and 8th graders what they were doing for Halloween. Most planned on trick-or-treating, like seventh graders **Abigail Santos** and **Brandon Perez**.

Santos went in a baby costume. I wonder if she got more candy for her cute look. **Perez** went as himself, which everyone seemed to think was scary enough!

Emily Stank, 8th grade, spent the night playing horror games and went out trick-or-treating in a plague doctor SCP-049 costume. I hope she didn't sense any disease.

Nancy Bucci and some of her friends, all 8th grade, said they were "scaring some children." Those kids better have watched out.

Mr. Whitley, 7th/8th grade teacher, spent the night in a Darth Vader costume, while he took his daughter trick or treating.

Mrs. Shebelock, 7th grade

teacher, also took her kids out for candy.

Stephanie Gable and **Jenna Lugo**, both 7th graders, went trick-or-treating. They wore their Bloody Mary costumes that night.

Kaesy Hernandez, 8th grade, went to haunted houses all night, and wore something scary to set the mood.

Nikki Martini and **Makahi Vaughn**, 8th and 7th grade, respectively, were handing out candy or trick-or-treating throughout the night. If you found their houses, you should have expected them to be wearing something ghoulish.

Brandon Denke, 8th grade, slept the night away with his pillow.

Shellby Dominguez, 7th grade, went trick-or-treating with family as a classic Halloween witch.

Last, but not least, **Kadasia Murdaugh**, 7th grade, went trick-or-treating on Halloween, but planned on making the trip with a friend in a Scream costume.

Most people I asked did not claim Halloween to be their favorite holiday, although the middle school kids at the Castle did not have a dull night, that's for sure.

I hope everyone had an awesome Halloween, even though we had school that day and it rained. Remember on All Hallow's Eve, you never know what is lurking beyond the shadows...

Tricks? Or Treats?

By Jasmine Rosario, Stephanie Ruiz,
& Abigail Santos
Junior Reporters

This Halloween the teachers and students at the Castle really got into the trick-or-treating spirit.

Miss Poluka, 3rd grade teacher, was a nurse. She said she is too nice to scare people, but has played pranks in the past. She said, "I put a rubber band around the sink hose so when someone turned on the water they got wet!" (I thought she said she was nice.)

Mrs. Rafalli, 5th grade teacher, was a biker for Halloween. She likes to scare people by reading a witch book and staring at them. Her best prank was putting a zombie in the bushes at her house and having it pop out.

Sixth grader **Brianna Santos** was a baby for Halloween. She loves going around town collecting candy. Her best prank is the "slam cam," whatever that is.

Kacindy Ruiz dressed as a belly dancer for trick-or-treating. She loves to scare her sister with spiders and her best prank was filling a water balloon with water and food coloring and throwing it at her poor sister.

Third grader **Love Ortiz** hoped to be a werewolf. He likes to scare people by jumping out and saying, "Boo!" The best prank he played was on his sister when he pulled a chair out from under her!

Harvest Dance

By Nancy Bucci*
Junior Reporter

Hey there, all you dancers! Get your dancing shoes on. It's time for the HMS Harvest Dance! The dance has been rescheduled for November 15, 2013. It will start at 6:00P.M. and end at 8:00P.M. If you want to go to the dance, be in school that day. If you are absent, you will not be able to attend. I spoke with some seventh graders to see if they were excited or worried about attending their first middle school dance.

Sera McManus is very excited for the dance. She doesn't feel worried at all. She plans to attend with **Jordan Pacelli**, seventh grade.

Julio Martinez is also very

excited for the dance. He is taking **Rachel Diaz**.

Finally, **Justin Nunez** shared in the excitement of the first dance, but he is not going with anyone. He decided to just go with a group of friends.

Student council members **Seidy Bobadilla** and **Jessica Bric** are anticipating the dance and are happy to be part of the club that is making it happen.

Miss DeLucca, student council advisor, said the DJ will be **Dante Molinaro** from Platinum Productions. The dress code is casual, but NO DENIM. Girls need to watch the length of their skirts. No more than 3" above the knee.

See you there!

SPORTS

Boys' Basketball Returns with a Vengeance

By Jenifer Aria, Yulimar Abreu, Jacqueline Dominguez, Yelisa Lara, & Nisel Florentino*
Senior & Junior Reporters

This year's seventh and eighth grade boys' basketball teams are gearing up for another season. Last year the team finished second in the Anthracite League to the Freeland Whippets. It's a new year with new students, new games and new challenges. Everyone is very excited about the possibilities the new season brings.

HMS's own vice principal, Mr. DeNoia, will be reprising his role as head coach for the Hazleton Mounts again this year. Mr. Silva will also be back assisting Mr. DeNoia and the team. New to the coaching staff this year is seventh grade coach, Mr. Plesh.

After speaking with Mr. Silva during open gym, which is being held every Monday and Wednesday after school, he explained the official teams have not been selected yet. A seventh grade and eighth grade team will be selected during tryouts next month. When the two teams are picked, the coaches' plan is to improve skills like ball movement and ball passing.

According to Silva, the teams need to learn how to "play smart," as well as learn the basic fundamentals of the game.

Damir Faison, seventh grade, said, "I am ready for tryouts. I've worked really hard. Mr. DeNoia has taught me a lot."

"I can't wait for the games," said eighth grader and returning player Luis Soto.

Jhonathan Pozniak, also an eighth grader who played on the team last year, said he feels, "really good" about the team this year. He has his sights set on winning the championship this year.

Tryouts will be held soon and two teams will be made - a seventh grade team and an eighth grade team.

The hopeful players are all very enthusiastic and excited for the season. We hope that once the games start, everyone comes out to see the team and cheer them on. The fans are very important to the team. Go Mounts!



Soto



HMS basketball team hopefuls practice at open gym held this fall at the Castle.

2013-2014 HMS Mounts Boys' Basketball Schedule

December 10
Freeland @ Hazleton

December 12
Hazleton @ Berwick

December 16
Hazleton @ West Hazleton

December 18
Holy Family @ Hazleton

January 2
Hazleton @ Drums

January 7
MMI @ Hazleton

January 9
Hazleton @ Heights

January 13
Valley @ Hazleton

January 15
Hazleton @ McAdoo

January 21
Hazleton @ Freeland

January 28
Berwick @ Hazleton

January 30
West Hazleton @ Hazleton

February 3
Hazleton @ Holy Family

February 5
Drums @ Hazleton

February 11
Hazleton @ MMI

February 13
Heights @ Hazleton

February 19
Hazleton @ Valley

February 25
McAdoo @ Hazleton

Editor's Note: Reporter Tiffany Guerrero did not meet her editorial deadline for the article "New Girls' Basketball Coach for HMS" for this edition

CLUBS & SUCH

A Royal Play Appropriately Set for Castle Club

By Yondra Del Roario*
Junior Reporter

It's showtime! This year's play is "Behold, The Emperor's New Clothes."

"I didn't read the script, but the story is told by Hans Christian Anderson, who is a kid author, so the play will probably be funny," said eighth grade teacher and drama club co-adviser Mrs. Rimshaw.

A lot of students signed up for the club this year and they are

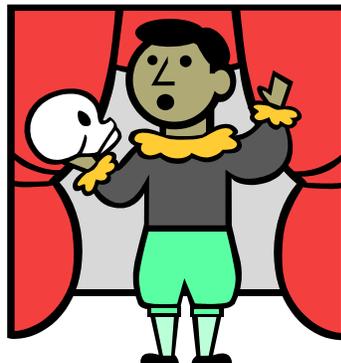
very excited to start the play.

There are three categories of sign-ups: actors, dancers, and stage crew. Students may select what they are interested in doing and they will be appropriately placed.

HMS student Meriyan Askander said, "I'm nervous, but excited at the same time."

Another HMS student, Melanie Tejada,

said, "I am happy and confident because I feel I am going to make it..."



The main characters of the play include: the

Emperor, Dewey, and Robum. There will also be the ladies of the chorus and a lot of towns people. The dancers will also have to audition and show their dance ability.

Approximately 40 people signed up for the stage crew, however Mrs Rimshaw said there will only be 20 members selected. She plans to mostly select 8th graders, since it's their last year.

Break a leg!

Three New Teachers at HEMS

By Anna Perez and Fatima Tomax
Junior Reporters

There are 3 new teachers behind the walls of the Castle. We had a chance to sit down and get to know them a little bit better. Here's what they had to say.

New to the Castle, Mr. Campbell loves it here. He teaches 4th and 6th grade math, science and social studies. It's his first time teaching, although he may look familiar because he served here as a substitute teacher before. He teaches about 50 students and he feels they are great kids. His classroom is one of

the trailers and he really enjoys it.

Miss Dale is our 7th and 8th grade physical education teacher. She likes the HMS students very

much. She thinks they behave well and have a great attitude.

"All of my students are great. They all participate," she said.

It is also Miss Dale's first time teaching. "I'm

learning a lot from them!"

Finally, Mrs. Potence is the new 4th and 6th grade reading, spelling, and English teacher. She is looking forward to a good year. She and Mr. Campbell are partners and switch classes with each other.

Mrs. Potence has been a substitute teacher for five years in the school district and she enjoys

teaching everyone.

"Each day I challenge them to be successful," she said. Her classroom is also one of the trailers and she enjoys it. She loves being out in the weather so far, and she feels very comfortable.

The Castle Caller would like to welcome you all and wish you a successful school year.

Editor's Note:

Reporter Gabrielle Catrone did not meet her editorial deadline for the article "Student Council Officers" for this edition of *The Castle Caller*.



MOUNT'S CORNER CHAT

By: Autumn Gunn
Junior Reporter

Are HMS 8th grade students glad to be back from summer break?

64% YES 36% NO

*Based on a poll taken of 100 HMS eighth grade students.

This edition's poll asks if eighth grade students are glad to be back to school after summer break. Most students were happy to return to school this year.

Cheerleader **Kaitlyn Verbitsky** said she was very happy to be back this year. She looks forward to being a cheerleader, as well as expanding her knowledge.

Student council member **Cassidy Lugo** said she is very happy to be back in school because she enjoys it.

Not all student s feel

the same though. **Nicolena Martini** was both happy and sad to be back to school. She is happy because she likes socializing with her friends, but she is unhappy because she doesn't like the stress of all the work during the school day.

Finally, **Cassidy Kishbaugh** disagrees. She is not glad to be back to school. She doesn't like getting up very early in the morning. She would rather be sleeping.

Fortunately 64% of 8th graders are glad to be back!

Summer Memories

By Kylie Gerhart
Junior Reporter

Though the summer season is long gone, we still have the memories to look back on. Our memories can't be taken away like the warm weather can be.

Some students at HEMS shared some of their most favorite summer memories with us.

Third grader **Josiah De La Cruz** went to his grandmother's house and when it got hot he went to Hickory Run State Park.

Brianna Shiavone, 6th grade, went to Knoeble's Amusement Park and slept over her friend's house.

Seventh grader **Damon Vitacco** went on his first family vacation to Delaware.

Johnathan Pozniak, eighth grade, played sports, hung out with his friends, and went swimming.

Fourth grader **Daniella Vasquez** went to Miami, Florida and Washington, DC.

Third grader **Paige Moyer** spent time with her family at Knoeble's and spent time with her sister.

David Dodd, fifth grade, went to Hershey Park with his friend.

Finally, eighth grader **Brandon Gambardella** went to his sister's wedding, Six Flags Great Adventure, and swimming.

See you again in 6 months, summer!



The Castle Caller Staff

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