



The Castle Caller

Hazleton Elementary Middle School
Holiday Edition - December 2015



Keep Christmas Traditions Alive

By Dianna Santana and Henely Santana*
Junior Reporters

Everyone has different holiday traditions they do with their family. Christmas time is when many of those traditions come alive. We asked the students and teachers at HEMS what their favorite holiday traditions are. Here is what they had to say.

Eighth grader **Edgar Soto** said his family always opens their presents at 12:00 midnight.

Student teacher Miss Massar said her family always goes to church on Christmas Eve, rather than Christmas Day.

Eighth grade math teacher Mrs. Rodgers said her family does the Elf on the Shelf tradition. This is when an elf arrives on Thanksgiving, watches the children in the house until Christmas, and reports to Santa Claus and Mom and Dad whether the kids have been naughty or nice.

Eighth grader **Derrick Cordero** said on Christ-



mas Eve his family has a party. Each family member brings their own dish to eat and they party until it is time to open presents at 12:00 midnight.

Mr. Silva says his family gets together to

eat Christmas dinner. While doing that, they listen to Christmas music and have a fun time.

Pilar Medrano, eighth grade, said she has a family gathering where they feast on pig! Her

family opens presents at 12:00 and listens to Latino music all night.

Mrs. O'Donnell said she is making new traditions since having her daughter. One tradition is taking her to visit Santa Claus at the mall on Christmas Eve.

No matter what your family tradition is, all traditions are special. Continue your family traditions every year and even add new ones.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year!

Holiday Hunt: FIND the hidden Santa Claus head. It is hidden somewhere in this newspaper. When you find it, make a Christmas wish!

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SPORTS



Mountaineer Basketball

Girls' Basketball Home Games

- 12/9 vs. Drums
- 12/17 vs. Heights
- 12/21 vs. MMI
- 1/7 vs. Freeland
- 1/11 vs. Maple Manor
- 1/13 vs. Valley
- 1/19 vs. McAdoo
- 1/21 vs. Holy Family
- 2/2 vs. West Hazleton

*Playoff games will be played at Hazleton Area High School.



Good luck to the Mountaineer cheerleaders at their competition on Sunday, January 17th in Exeter, PA.

Juliana Bric
Kayleigh Correll
Gabriella Crump
Brittany Duran - Co-capt.
Kaleigh Frederick
Yvette Hernandez
Esmeralda Lucca
Clarissa Nunez – Captain
Karen Pujols
Dianna Santana – Co-capt.
Henely Santana
Arielys Sencion
Kiana Veras
Pilar Volquez
Taylor Williams

Boys' Basketball Home Games

- 12/10 vs. Drums
- 12/18 vs. Heights
- 12/22 vs. MMI
- 1/ 8 vs. Freeland
- 1/12 vs. Maple Manor
- 1/14 vs. Valley
- 1/21 vs. Holy Family
- 1/22 vs. McAdoo
- 2/3 vs. West Hazleton

*Playoff games will be played at Hazleton Area High School.



HOLIDAY FEATURES



7th Loves Holiday Movies

By Ruby Diaz Levya and Brandy Rodriguez
Junior Reporters

Have you ever wondered what your friends' favorite Christmas movies are? Well, keep reading and you will find out what movies seventh graders like the best!

Eddie Linker, said, "Well, I like *National Lampoons Christmas Vacation* because it's very entertaining and funny."

Estivel Guerrero, chose the very popular *Home Alone*.

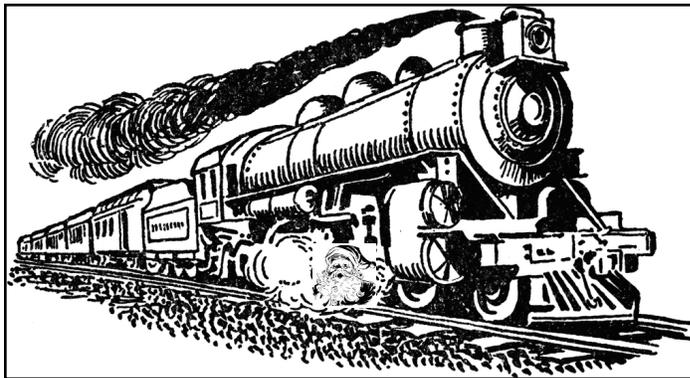
Michelle Cabrera and **Gabriella Velez** both said their favorite Christmas movie is *The*

Christmas Spirit. Cabrera said she likes it because it is very entertaining and it has a sad ending. Velez finds the movie interesting.

Taylor Williams said, "*Jack Frost* because it is action packed." Williams said she likes cold weather just like Jack Frost. She also said she likes

his blue, spikey hair.

Karen Pujols has two favorites, *Rise of the*



Jayla Bryan said, "My favorite Christmas movie is *The Polar Express*...it's very interesting and I think the characters are cool."

Finally, **Kaleigh Frederick's** favorite movie is *Elf*. She said, "*Elf* is very funny and has a lot of

Guardians and *The Santa Clause*. "I like getting in the Christmas spirit," said Pujols.

action." Christmas movies are fun to watch and put you in the holiday spirit!

Jingle Bells and Rudolph Favs Among HEMS

By Cindy Paulino and Kaitlyn Roskos*
Junior Reporters

This year's Christmas concert at school is postponed until January, but that doesn't mean you can't sing a few songs yourself! What's your favorite song to sing this time of year?

Sixth grader **Mark Roskos** likes the Grinch song. He said, "It's catchy and I always hear it on the radio."

Mia Rodriguez, sixth grade, loves *Jingle Bells*. She said, "When I was younger my sisters would

sing it to me."

Sixth graders **Bryan Castro**, **Kiara Pizarro**, **Diamond**

Yisreal, and **Isaiah Gracia** all agree.

Castro says he hears *Jingle Bells* everywhere he goes.

Pizarro said, "It just makes me happy when I sing it."



Sixth grader **Dairon Castro** loves *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer*.

He said it is catchy. **Duly Morillo**, seventh grade, agrees.

Sixth grader **Julianna Bric** said her favorite Christmas song is *Last Christmas* because it is "cheery and exciting." She said, "It will get you

excited for Christmas."

Sixth graders **Cyleena Lott** and **Anabel Lantigua** like *All I Want For Christmas* by Mariah Carey.

Lott said, "It lightens up my mood and it reminds me of my father."

Lantigua said, "I like it because it is happy."

The Christmas concert is rescheduled to January 23. Keep the Christmas spirit alive and turn up the volume on your favorite!



HOLIDAY FEATURES



Should I Stay or Should I Go?

By Marcus Knecht, Jerry Marcalle and Brayana Pena*

mounts' Holiday CHAT

By: Marcus Knecht, Jerry Marcalle, and Brayana Pena
Junior Reporters

Do HMS students and their families celebrate the holidays in Hazleton?

80% Yes
20% No

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

Spending time away from home for the holidays may be a questionable option for some. It is a great opportunity to go spend time with family members that you don't see very often.

We polled 50 seventh and 50 eighth graders to try to find out if most of us stay here or if most of us travel somewhere else for the holidays. The answer was surprising.

It turns out an overwhelming 80% of HMS students stay here in Hazleton for the holiday season. Twenty percent will be traveling either out of

the city, state or country to celebrate with family and friends.

Some of the students polled said they will be staying in the Hazleton area for the holidays because they have family members who will be traveling here from other areas.

"I stay home for the holidays because I spend time with my family," said seventh grader **Leonel Lithgow**.

Sierra Swords, seventh grade, said her family stays home because they do not like to travel. There's no place like

home.

Seventh grader **Kaitlyn Roskos** stays home for the holidays with her grandparents.

Though the majority of students

stay home, some do travel, as we have 20% voting that way in the poll.

Jason Lainez, seventh grade, says his family travels. They like visit-

ing other relatives.

Emmanuel Morante, seventh grade, said he does both. Some years he travels and some years he stays home.

Whether you stay at home or travel to see

family in another city, state or country, have a great holiday and be safe.



HOLIDAY FEATURES

Is Santa Ready For You?

By Maria Jimenez and Nayely Paulino*
Junior Reporters



The seventh and eighth grade students at HMS are getting ready for the holidays, but the real question is “Is Santa ready for them?”

Let’s see how the students think their behavior was this year.

Genesis Martinez, seventh grade, states, “I have been nice to people and I also help many students.” Therefore, she feels she is on the nice list.

Seventh grader **Amaury Fernandez** said he knows he is on the nice list because he helps people even if they aren’t nice to him.

Jeremy Rodriguez and **Geomar Medina**, seventh grade, feel they should be on the nice list because they help out at home and they help their



parents.

Some students are owning up to their behavior though and admitting that, maybe, just maybe, they might be on that other list...the naughty

list!

Eighth grader **Dazmin Murien** says she knows she is on the naughty list. She says she doesn’t pay

a lot of attention to people.

Finally, **Garrick Garcia**, eighth grade, admits he is on the naughty list because he doesn’t follow the rules.

It’s this time of year when kids are always examining their behavior, but really this is something that should be done all year long. Make sure you never act in any way that would have you end up on the naughty list!

Cookies, Cookies, and More Cookies

By Samuel Figueroa
Senior Reporter

It’s finally December, the best month of the year, in my opinion, because of Christmas. Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year. You can just feel the joy in the air. Houses and buildings are decorated in sparkling lights, which brighten the snowy nights (although not this year). There are presents under the tree. The children are filled with happiness. The smell of Christmas cooking fills the house, along with the scent of warm, freshly baked Christmas

cookies. During this festive season, I interviewed various students and teachers to find out what their favorite holiday cookie is and why?

Eighth grader **Nayeli Gonzalez** said, “I like chocolate chip cookies because I love chocolate.”

Aliyah Baldwin, eighth grade, said, “I like gingerbread cookies because they’re delicious.” Baldwin discussed a time when she and her sister made gingerbread man houses. She said, “I pretended they were alive

and I took it and ate it. She thought I killed it. It was so funny. We laugh every time we talk about it.”

Eighth grade student teacher Miss Massar said, “I like sugar cookies because they are simple, delicious, and super sweet.”

Caroline Feliz, eighth grade, said, “My favorite holiday cookies are the Christmas sugar wafers with vanilla icing because I love icing and it tastes amazing.”

Mrs. Rodgers, eighth grade math teacher, said,

“I like double chocolate, mint cookies because they’re yummy, minty, soft and chocolatey.”

Vanasia Germosen, eighth grade, said, “I like sugar cookies because they really get me into the Christmas spirit.”

Castle Caller advisor Mrs. O’Donnell’s favorite Christmas cookies are the Italian cookies with the white icing.

And this reporter’s personal favorites are simply the tin boxed cookies because they are so delicious and I eat them every year.



M E R R Y
C H R I S T M A S

From your friends at The Castle Caller

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