

# The Castle Caller

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A Student Newspaper

Spring Edition 2014

## HEMS Students and Teachers Fed Up With Old Man Winter

By Jackie Dominguez, Jasmine Rosario, Stephanie Ruiz and Abigail Santos  
Junior Reporters\*

Everyone is ready for spring! Winter has been so long and cold that we all just can't wait for warmer temps. The poll this month shows 70% of students at HEMS can't wait for spring weather.

We asked HEMS students and teachers if they are excited about the spring season coming.

**Marlon Palonco**, eighth grade, said that he is counting down the days until spring so we can enjoy some nice weather.

**Rachel Diaz**, seventh grade, said she doesn't like the cold weather and she slept more when we didn't have school on the snow days.

**Xavier Rodriguez**, seventh grade, said he doesn't like winter because it's very cold. He likes the warm weather so much better. On the snow days from school he also slept more and ate a lot of candy and food.

**Emely Martinez**, seventh grade, doesn't like the cold weather because she likes it hot so you can get into the pool and go

swimming. She said in the spring you get to do fun stuff, unlike the winter where you stay home and do nothing.

**Mr. Hearne**, seventh grade language arts teacher, said he can't wait for the spring to be here so he could go out and play soccer with his family.

**Mrs. O'Donnell**, *Castle Caller* editor and elementary teacher, said she is booking her summer vacation as soon as possible. She can't take one more cold day in NEPA.

There are several students who did not mind the cold weather this year. They actually enjoyed it b/c of all the

snow days that we had off from school. Well, they won't be enjoying it in May and June when the sun is shining and the classrooms are hot.

**Nayani Jimenez**, HMS student, said she isn't counting down the days to spring, but she can't wait for it to get here.

Eighth grader **Cindy Jimenez** said she loved the winter because she didn't have to come to school on snow days and she slept more too.

As you can see, most students at HEMS can't wait for the spring/summer weather to get here. It has been a long, cold winter and we still

haven't seen any end in sight of the lower than average temps.

Spring's first official day was March 20th. Hopefully the end is in sight. It will make many of us in Hazleton smile

### MOUNT'S CORNER CHAT

By: Jackie Dominguez, Stephanie Ruiz and Abigail Santos

## Are you counting down the days to spring?

# 70% Yes 30% No

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

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# INSIGHT

## Valentine's Dance Highlights

Photos by Mrs. Force



# FEATURES

## PSSA Time is Here Again

By **Amya Torres, Fatima Tomax, & Kylie Gerhart**  
Junior Reporters\*

It's PSSA season. That time of year when the students in PA have to take standardized tests in Reading, Writing, Math and Science. We gave the students of HEMS a chance to express how they are feeling about the tests.

Seventh graders **Xavier Rodriguez** and **Stephanie Gable** both said the PSSAs are hard. Gable is confident, but Xavier is not as much.

**Edgar Pena**, sixth grade, is worried we missed a lot of days this year and aren't prepared. He doesn't think he learned enough in time. He said, "I'll do good, but I think I'll do better next year!"

**Nathaniel Abreu**, sixth grade, and **Ramddy Melendez**, seventh grade, both said they will do good.

Abreu heard the PSSAs get harder every year so he is nervous. Melendez said he is worried about his math score, but will still do well.

**Kimberly Ventura**, sixth grade, said she doesn't like the PSSAs. She said, "I have a lot of worries. I don't like when George W. Bush said we were going to have a test and it's called the PSSAs...we already have enough pressure."

Eighth grader **Jennifer Barrero** said the PSSAs are extremely difficult. She feels she is going to do poorly on them and is upset because she feels we have enough tests as it is.

**Jasmine Villareal**, eighth grade, said even though the PSSAs are confusing at times,

we should have them because we spent all this time preparing for them. Villareal felt she was going to pass.

**Pedro Urena**, eighth grade, said the tests were boring and a waste of time, however he was confident he was going to pass.

Seventh grader **Treisy Fuentez** said they bother her and she isn't going to pass. She wished they never existed.

**Andrew de Jesus**, seventh graders, said the tests were tiring.

Eighth grader **Brandon Gamberdella** said he thought he was going to do poorly. He said he only studies a little.

**Julio Martinez**, seventh

grade, thinks the tests are very hard and doesn't like how long they are.

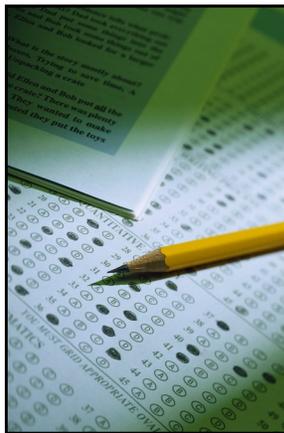
**Nabelia Gonzelez**, seventh grade, is very confident she will do well because she is smart. The school year is ending and she is going to high school.

**Nayeli Santos**, eighth grade, feels the pressure and says the test gets harder every year.

**Alysha Cruz**, seventh grade, says she feels stressed because she doesn't want to fail the test.

**Chantal Guerrero**, eighth grade, is positive and sure of herself. She said, "I'm mentally prepared."

Having a bad attitude will not help you succeed on these tests. You must be positive and try your best. Good luck to all students at HEMS!



## What Do You Want in Your Easter Basket?

By **Jenifer Arias & Nisel Florentino**  
Senior Reporters\*

Easter, Easter Easter! The stores are now filled with chocolate bunnies and Easter candy. These are the normal items you will find in your Easter basket. But some HEMS students and teachers are confusing the holiday with Christmas and wishing for gifts in their Easter basket that are more suited for under a Christmas tree.

Eighth grader **Naomi Calderon** wants a pit bull and lots of shoes.

**Sera McManus**, seventh grade, said, "I want fruits and vegetables, candy, clothes, and sports gear..."

**Angelo Roman**, eighth grade, wanted every cupcake in the world!

Mrs. Salemi, eighth grade math teacher, wants money so she can retire from teaching.

Eighth grade student **Leslie Garcia** wants a chocolate owl, in her basket. She also wants to see her "husband" Drake!

**Jamsy Lithgow**, seventh grade, said, "I want chocolate and stuff I don't need."

Eighth grade teacher Mrs. Rimshaw wants a plane ticket to Hawaii.

Mr. Shifano, eighth grade, wants to find keys to a new car in his basket!

Seventh grader **Jose Valenzela** asked for money and a car, even though he

can't drive yet.

**Kianitza Cara**, seventh grade, wants an iPhone cover with a dinosaur on it.



Some students were telling us about the traditions they have planned. A family tradition for sixth grader **Vanasia Germosen** is to make colored eggs the day before Easter.

Remember Easter is not really a time for giving gifts like Christmas. Though we do get baskets filled with treats from the bunny, this holiday is a time of reflection and joy to be spent with our loved ones. It's not the gifts we get, but the memories we make with our family.

Enjoy your Easter break this year. Even though it is a little shorter, we all can't wait.

# SPORTS

## Cheerleading Tryout Information



Cheerleading tryouts will be held before summer vacation. Any student trying out for cheerleading will need a physical exam BEFORE tryouts. If you do not have your physical completed, you will not be able to try

out.

A free sports clinic will be held at HAHS in May. Listen to announcements for dates. Forms for the clinic will be available in the nurse's office. **Physicals must be done AFTER June 1st to count towards the 2014-15 school year.** It is recommended students attend the sports clinic, or schedule an appointment with their doctor for the first week of June. Those who do not have their medical forms filled out will not be able to participate in tryouts.

**Congratulations** to the Mountaineer boys' basketball team, Coach DeNoia, Coach Silva, Coach Plesh, and the all teachers who helped make the 2013-2014 season a memorable one. The team finished 2nd in the Anthracite League Boys' Division. Great job to all!



**Thank you** to Coach Campbell and Coach Veet for coaching the 2013-2014 Lady Mounts basketball team. Thanks for a great season. We hope to see you next year!

# CLUBS

## PJAS Competition

By Yandra Del Rosario & Yulimar Abreu  
Junior Reporter & Senior Reporter

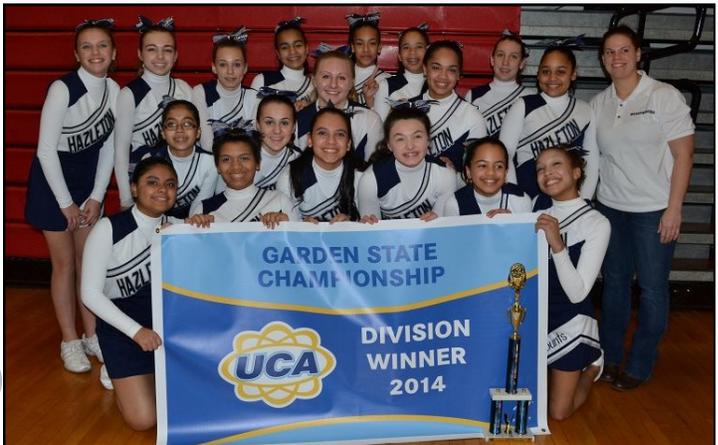
Do you like science? Well, you should have joined PJAS! PJAS's regional competition was on March 1, 2014. Many students from different schools entered the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science because they like science. One of those students is **Nancy Bucci**, an eighth grader who is in her second year in PJAS and received second place in the competition.

We asked if she and other members were nervous while presenting their projects. She said, "Yes, I was more nervous than anything."

**Julio Rumaldo**, a seventh grader, said it was his first year and he got second place. As far as being nervous he said, "No, my friends were encouraging me not to be nervous."

**Lisa McDonough** was the only student who got first place and is going to the state competition. This is her second year in PJAS. We asked her if she was nervous and she said, "A little, because I knew the others were good..."

PJAS advisor Mrs. Shebelock said "Our students work hard and prepared for a long time and I am proud of how



The Mountaineer Cheerleaders and coach Luthi pose with their division banner after a competition in New Jersey this winter.

**Thank you** and good-bye to Coach Luthi from the HMS cheerleaders. She coached the team for the 2013-2014 school year, but had decided to move on at the end of the season. The team would like to thank her for all her hard work and wish her well. Mrs. O'Donnell will be returning as the Mounts cheerleading coach for 2014-15.

well they did. I think there should be some improvement in the judging so it can be fair."

PJAS advisor Mr. Hudock said "Our students did a great job. I don't think the judging was as good as it could have been. Wilkes University was a nice place to have the competition, still I think it was a good

experience for students. I hope students would continue and participate next year."

Remember this club next year if you have in interest science. It is a great way to learn about science, participate in competition, and have fun with your friends.

Why not join PJAS?!

# CLUBS

## Annual Donations to Cancer Society by Clubs

By Autumn Gunn  
Junior Reporter\*

At Christmas time, student council held their annual Victoria's Candies fundraiser to sell Christmas candy. Overall, they raised a total amount of five hundred dollars.

Miss DeLuca, the student council advisor, said the fundraiser was a success.

The money was donated to the American Cancer Society during their telethon on March 1, 2014. The following student council members presented the check at the telethon: Nicole Ritz, Rebecca Rossi, Jessica



(Above): Community Service and student council members raised money for the American Cancer Society. A check was presented to the ACS on March 1, 2014.

Cusatis, Kim Bellard, and Anthony Colon.

Even if the student council would have only

raised \$100, every little bit helps. It always feels rewarding to help those in need.

Sixth grade community service club also contributed \$500 to this cause.

## Emperor's Clothes—The Reviews Are In!

By Lisa McDonough  
Senior Reporter

"Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?"

Drama is usually a term middle school kids can relate to, whether they start it or hear about it. However, in the past few years the Castle has given the word drama a new definition.

This year drama club was given the privilege to act out and/or watch the play *Behold, The Emperor's New Clothes!*. This play is about the conniving and slightly foolish scoundrels who have come to deceive the most vain emperor around. Of course, there are

other parts that may or may not help the emperor out of his foolish situation, including the town fool, towns people, and the trusted ministers.

I interviewed a few seventh and eighth graders, both in the club and members of the audience, to see what they thought about the play this year. To start off, I interviewed the Emperor himself, eighth grader, **Nelson Perez**. He liked doing the play and hopes to participate in drama club at the high school next year. His only wish is that he will not be embarrassed again!

Seventh grader **Sera McManus** played the Minister of Robes in the play. She loved the play. Sera will be participating in drama next year and can't wait to meet even more new people.

**Felicity Hunsinger**, 7th grader, was a towns person. She will probably be participating next year and had fun this year.

**Nancy Bucci** and **Eric Martinez**, both 8th graders, played a towns person/kingdom guard, respectively. They loved being in the play. They believed the play

turned out very well, even though it was rushed because of snow days.

Our final star from the play is dancer **Yandra Del Rosario**, 8th grade. She said that even with all the snow days it wasn't very rushed, and turned out very well. "I loved the play, meeting people, and having fun."

I also spoke with some of the audience members to find out how they reviewed the play. Some even pictured themselves in this year's play and expressed the parts they would have loved to play!

## Reviews cont.

By Lisa McDonough  
Senior Reporter

(Continued from p. 5)

**Christian Vache**, 7th grade, liked the play and might even do the play next year! If he would have done the play this year, he said he would have loved to play the Minister of Finance.

**Jennifer Caraballo** and **Brianna Mandak**, both 7th graders, liked the play and might try out next year. Both commented if they did have a part in the play this year, it would have been the weavers.

**Yosmeiry Santana**, 7th grade, liked the play and would have loved to be a dancer.

**Kadias Murdough** and **Ismauris Lluberres**, both 7th grade, thought the play was just okay, but would have liked to be the 'king?' They were the only ones who thought the best part was when they left (maybe the weavers should have tricked them instead).

**Aneli Ramos**, 8th grade, said she liked the play and only had one comment, "It was funny and very scarring". All of our students, with the



(Below): Eighth grader Nelson Perez sits on his throne in the HMS drama club's production of *Behold! The Emperor's New Clothes*. Perez played the Emperor. The play was performed for the students and parents in late February.

exception of two boys, seemed to enjoy the final parade the most.

It wouldn't be right to end the interviewing train without getting to the masterminds behind the club, Mrs. Dudeck and Mrs. Rimshaw, 7th and 8th grade reading teachers, respectively. Mrs. Dudeck believed the play was fantastic and noticed the details stood out very much. She would like

to thank the art club as well as their advisor, Mrs. McCuen, for their hard work. Her favorite part of the play was a hard decision, but after some time she decided on the giant cards and the dance. Every year there is more student participation, and she believes next year will not be any different.

Mrs. Rimshaw loved the play and thought that "For having difficulties it turned out to

be awesome." Next year she believes the play will be a comedy, as that is their, as well as the students', favorite type of play to do. She believes the less people they have the easier it is during auditions, however she still hopes to have more people. Finally, her favorite part of the play was, of course, the final parade.

It seems that all of the school enjoyed the play this year, whether they just liked getting out of class or the actual entertainment.

Drama club works hard every year to get a lot of laughs, and it seems they're getting what they want. Maybe next year you can be a part of the making of those laughs? Or perhaps just being an audience member is more your speed. Either way, I hope you enjoyed another drama club production. Just remember - when someone comes to you with a seemingly magical offer, it is not always wise to accept it.



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