



The Owl

December 2014

Toys for Tots By Lauren Gower

Around the world, some kids don't get anything for Christmas, while others brag about all of the presents they get. This year, do you want all of those kids that don't get presents to be happy? You can donate to Toys for Tots.

In 1947, the first Toys for Tots organization came to life as a Los Angeles charitable effort. It all started when Major Bill Henricks was inspired by his wife Diane when he tried to donate a homemade Raggedy Ann doll to a needy child but found no organization to do so. At her suggestion, he gathered a group of local Marine reservists who were able to coordinate and collect 5,000 children's toys that year from collection bins placed outside of Warner Bros. Their efforts were so successful that in 1948, Toys for Tots was launched nationally.

The mission is to collect unwrapped presents and to donate them to the children who need them. To give every child a Merry Christmas and a good holiday season, donate to the Toys for Tots organization. You can make a difference since children around the world need your help. You won't regret it!



Contributors:

Editor: Gina Leccese

Writers:

- Farzana Akhter
- Sharmin Akhter
- Richard Dellavechia
- Danny Gelles
- Jenna Gregory
- Lauren Gower
- Saima Hannan
- Devon Sweatt

Photos courtesy of:

- Danny Gelles

Advisors:

- Ms. Cipollari
- Mrs. Near

Food Drive Contributions

The National Honor Society collected over one hundred food items during the annual food drive this year. Students from every homeroom were allowed to contribute. The winning homeroom was awarded with a cupcake party. Mrs. Naramore's AP United States History Class brought in over thirty items and won. Congratulations to them! The food will be donated to a family in need who lives in the Hudson City School District.

The Clark and Mass Moca

By Danny Gelles

On December 5th, the students of Ms. Albino's Art and Ms. Brust's Humanities classes embarked on a field trip to The Clark and Mass Moca galleries. They were both situated in New England and gave a glimpse of American art at its finest. The Clark is an imposing white marble structure housed many classical works of art. Of the collection you could find anything between Frederick Remington's depiction of the Wild West to Claude Monet's portrayal of the French countryside. However the atmosphere of the Clark was quite austere. Constantly under the watchful eye of bodyguards in formal attire, and a cool reception from the tour guide, dampened the experience. However, we were able to see work by local artist Ellsworth Kelly who resides in Spencertown, New York.

Mass Moca however was an exhilarating experience. The gallery was located in the center of North Adams, inside a previously abandoned textile factory. The exterior of the building was deceiving. The building looks like a monument from industrial era but, the inside is filled to the brim with the latest contemporary art. Mass Moca's artwork is the type that escapes the canvas. Majority of the exhibits encompass the entire room and were designed around the spacious rooms of Mass Moca. Aside from sculptures many other unique exhibits included ones about analog film and displays that not only stimulated the eyes but, the ears and mind as well. The staff at Mass Moca were experienced and friendly. Their expertise in knowledge of the artwork only aided the experience. If you ever find yourself in Massachusetts, I would highly recommend a visit to the quirky yet exceptional Mass Moca!



An Interview with Bowling Coach, Steve Markowitz

By Richard Dellavechia

I interviewed Hudson's Bowling Coach, Mr. Markowitz, so students can know more about him.

Q: How long have you been bowling?

A: I started at 5 in the Hudson Pee Wees league.

Q: What's your favorite part about coaching the bowling team?

A: Seeing each bowler improve. I coached the first patrol conference MVP, so I like to think my coaching helped them a little. This year's team has shown improvement also. Connor and Matt have increased their averages greatly and now play a vital role in this year's top 8 bowlers.

Q: How have the numbers for people who try out for bowling changed over the years?

A: The numbers haven't really changed but a lot come and are beginners.

Q: How much do you think not having lanes in Hudson has affected the bowling program?

A: It makes it difficult but it is not an excuse. I think the major problem is competitive bowling is expensive and the travel is difficult. It is great however how many parents come to support the team at the matches.

Q: How does this year's team look?

A: They look good. There's a lot of work to do and room to grow. Go Bluehawks!

If you would like to support the bowling team, their matches take place at the Catskill bowling alley.

Hanukkah

By Farzana Akhter

Hanukkah is an eight day and night festival that celebrates the triumph of light over darkness, of purity over adulteration, of spirituality over materiality. It starts on the 25th of the Jewish month of Kislev or at sundown on December 16th. Hanukkah is a holiday in the Jewish year that commemorates the rededication during the second century B.C. of the Second Temple in Jerusalem, where according to legends, the Jews raised up against their Greek-Syrian oppressors in the Maccabean Revolt. Hanukkah festivities include playing dreidel, gathering with family and eating oil based foods, most popularly latkes. Hanukkah became more widely celebrated beginning from the 1970s, when Rabbi Menachem M. Shearson called for public awareness of this festival and encouraged the lighting of public menorahs. It is one celebration that the world



Varsity Club Volleyball Tournament

By Gina Leccese



On March 13th, the Hudson High Varsity Club will be hosting a volleyball tournament to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Pennies for Patients program. Teams can begin signing up in January and anyone can participate. Once sign-ups begin in January, collection boxes will be present at various locations around the school to raise money for the Pennies for Patients program as well. Those that donate will receive a star that they can hang on the wall.

This year's volleyball tournament will be set up a little different than it was last year. Last year, grades faced off against other grades. This year, the teams can be made up of players from all grades, not just the same grade. Also, the tournament will now include teams made up of community members such as firefighters, police officers, and hospital staff. The Hudson High teachers, who won last year's tournament, will be returning this year to defend their title. The tournament is a great opportunity to have fun, raise money for a worthy cause, and find out who has the best volleyball team around, so sign up soon.



Interview with Ms. Lockman
By Sharmin Akther & Saima Hannan

Ms. Lockman has joined us at Hudson High School and has already helped the Class of 2018 a great deal! She has become our class advisor! We appreciate this since we realize how much work fundraising is. So far everyone at Hudson High School knows that Ms. Lockman is a down to earth, understanding teacher. There is a lot more to her story.

Ms. Lockman is originally from New Jersey but has been living in New York for fourteen years. She is a retired soccer, baseball and softball coach. Along with being the co advisor for the Class of 2018, she is part of the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA). Ms. Lockman has been married for sixteen years and has four dogs. She told us in this interview that she decided to become a science teacher and she decided this by accident! Not that she sees her job as a mistake. On the contrary, she loves teaching! It began when she was helping another teacher grade papers and helped out. It led to her being certified in three states- New Jersey, New York and Massachusetts. She is also a certified Special Ed. teacher.

Ms. Lockman said that her desire to become Class Advisor to the Class of 2018 stemmed from a couple of reasons. She wanted to give back to the students. She feels that group officers are good in their elected positions. The goal of the Class of 2018 is to raise money for events like prom and graduation.

Ms. Lockman's inspiration came from her father. Her father worked full time in school and coached sports. He even worked with Michael Bloomberg! Ms. Lockman's father gave to charities as well. He loved to hike, quad, and snowmobile when he wasn't teaching. This inspired Ms. Lockman's love for Physical Education, which was her favorite subject. She has one piece of advice for students: "Don't do things just because your friends are. Don't wait until high school to get your grades up. Get involved; the more you put into school, the more you get out of it. Lastly, ask teachers for help."



Crank Book Review By Devon Sweatt

Crank, by Ellen Hopkins, is a very unique book. It is written in an almost poetic way by aligning words on a page to form a picture. It is the type of book that has the reader going back through to reread the text. The other interesting fact about the book is that it is based on the experiences of the daughter of the author. The story itself is told in the first person by Kristina, a gifted high school junior with straight A grades. Kristina also has a dark side, a persona she names Bree. Bree is much different from Kristina; she is fearless. When Kristina goes to visit her father that she has not seen in many years, she meets a boy who introduces her to meth or "The Monster". It brings more of Bree out and takes over her life, leading her to more bad habits. She struggles against her addiction and attempts to get her life back, but Bree does not want to change. The story is very well written as it tells the story of struggling against an addiction. It also feels genuine the whole time you read because of first person point of view. It is not a long read and can be read cover to cover at one time. I recommend the book to older audiences though, because there are some mature situations and strong language. My rating is *****!

Mockingjay Part I By Jenna Gregory

Mockingjay Part I was released on November 21st. The film is based on the novel Mockingjay, written by Suzanne Collins, and is the first part of two films. Mockingjay is the third film for the Hunger Games trilogy. The film stars include Jennifer Lawrence and Josh Hutcherson.

In the film, the famous Katniss Everdeen is both a hero and enemy. While Peeta and the other victors are being held captive by the capital, Katniss ends up in District 13 where she is reunited with her mother and her sister Prim. She meets President Alma Coin who tells her that her actions in the arena caused riots against the capital. Katniss becomes the mockingjay which symbolizes rebellion. She does so to free Peeta and the rest of the victors from the game. She is also fighting for justice because she feels as though the capital is unfair. Katniss receives a film team, Effie Trinket as a stylist, and Gale as a bodyguard. The capital tries to attack everybody who supports the mockingjay. The nation of course fights back though. There are a couple times when the capital attacks the nation, but the people push through and fight right back. A famous line from the film is "If we burn, you burn with us." Katniss is an inspiration to the nation. She is a very strong girl which is why so many people look up to her.

Mockingjay Part I is a movie filled with lots of action and adventure. The movie has a good message to it. The message is to fight for what you believe is right and to not back down. You can help to change lives if you just put your mind to it. If you haven't already, go see Mockingjay Part I in theater. Find out what happens to Peeta and the other victors. Also find out what happens with the rebellion between the nation and the capital.

