



# The Owl

March 2015

High School All-County Band

By Brianna Tsitsera

On Friday, March 6th, Hudson Senior High School's selected band students performed after two months of practicing challenging band music picked out by the conductor, Kathleen Richards Ehlinger. The songs chosen were 'His Honor' by Fillmore and arranged by Fennel, 'Hebrides Suite' by Clare Grundman, 'Merry Go Round' by Phillip Sparke, and everybody's favorite movie from the 1930s, 'The Wizard of Oz' by Harold Arlen and E.Y. Harburg, arranged by James Barnes. In 'The Wizard of Oz' a solo was done perfectly by senior Adriana Tampasis, who also accompanied the Junior High Choir for a song.

All through February, students worked hard to overcome the pieces in a limited amount of time, coming in during their free periods and after school. With the help of band teacher Scott Vorwald, it was successful and students had a fun time.



RPI Field Trip

By Danny Gelles

In an effort to broaden students' horizons and show a taste of college life, Hudson High School visited the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. The Polytechnic Institute, also known as RPI, is America's oldest technological research university and arguably the most prominent. One field they are particularly strong in is the study of architecture. Other fields they are pioneering in are 3D Printing, Humanities, Information Technology and an extensive Engineering department.

Overall the trip was well organized and students got an extensive introduction into the world of architecture. The trip included many informative seminars on the different branches of architecture. Whether it be information on the history of architecture or ways architecture can reduce the ecological footprint, the subject was covered.

Not only did RPI provide a host of knowledgeable professors but also a variety of superb meal choices as well. Upon arrival, Hudson School students along with other neighboring school districts were greeted with a hearty breakfast of homemade pastries and fresh coffee. Lunch was great, too. With a buffet of pizza and flavored chicken wings, how can one go wrong? In the end I think the trip was a success, and more college trips should be allotted to give Hudson students a broader perspective of the fine academic institutions right in our backyard.



## Students at RPI Trip

### Victories for Hudson Mock Trial

By: Farzana Akhter

The Hudson Mock Trial team made two wonderful wins against both Hawthorne Valley and Cocksackie-Athens. The defense and plaintiff accomplished two outstanding performances. Congratulations on receiving first seat in sectionals. The defense team will be going for their upcoming trial on 31st of March and the lead lawyer states “The trial went really well against Hawthorne Valley. We ended up winning! I was nervous because I found out I was going to be a lawyer only a week before. The competition was tough, but everyone on our team did great. Hopefully we can make it to regionals this year.” The plaintiff witness states “we went in nervous but came out victorious!” Best of luck to the defense team and good luck on our upcoming trial next Tuesday!





### **Mock Trial Accepts Check from Kindness Club**

#### Upcoming Battle of the Belts

By Gina Leccese

This April, SADD students will once again be participating in the Battle of the Belts at Chatham High School. The Battle of the Belts is held as part of the Sean's Run Weekend, which is held annually to help raise awareness about the dangers of drinking and driving. The Battle of the Belts helps to raise awareness of the importance of wearing seat belts. A team of students from Hudson High will soon be formed, so stay tuned to The Owl for more information.



## Hang Up and Drive

By Jenna Gregory

On March 9th, nationwide public speakers Jacy Good and Steve Johnson came to the school for an assembly. The married couple talked about distracted driving. Why? Well, they wanted to share their story. They wanted to explain what could happen when there are distracted drivers on the road. One phone call or text message could change someone's life forever. Jacy Good's life was completely changed because someone was talking on their cell phone rather than paying attention to the road.

Jacy Good and Steve Johnson met at college and dated for almost the whole time that they were there. After graduation, something terrible happened. Jacy and her parents were on their way back to their hometown, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The car the three were riding in was hit by a tractor trailer as they both entered an intersection with green lights. The truck swerved to avoid hitting a man coming from the intersecting road who tried to turn left through a red light. The man attempted to turn left through a red light due to the fact that he was talking on his cell phone, rather than being focused on driving. The crash immediately killed Jacy's parents. As for Jacy, she lived with only a 10% chance of survival. She was rushed to the hospital with many broken bones and a brain injury. Steve Johnson always stayed by her side. He was at the hospital twelve hours a day for four months. Jacy is very lucky to have survived the crash, but is now unable to use the left side of her body.

A year after Jacy's tragedy, she fought to ban cell phone use while driving in the state of Pennsylvania. After that, she has received many requests for interviews and public appearances. She was on the *Oprah Winfrey Show*, was a guest of Secretary Ban Ki-Moon at the United Nations, and was a speaker at Maria Shriver's Woman's Conference. Jacy has been featured in articles and press conferences as well. She was even on the famous television show *Say Yes to the Dress!* Jacy Good and Steve Johnson use their story to potentially save lives. The two have spoken at over 475 events to encourage people to make safer choices. Jacy Good and Steve Johnson are a power couple! For more information, go to [hangupanddrive.com](http://hangupanddrive.com). Also, make sure to follow Jacy on Twitter! Just search @JacyGood and click that follow button.

Just remember, distracted driving is unsafe driving. Put your phones down and just focus on the road. An average 5,500 people are killed every year in the country and 23% of car crashes are a result of cell phone distracted driving. Do the right thing. Keep your hands on the wheel, not on the phone.

## PBIS Power Luncheon

By Gina Leccese

On March 10th, students nominated by their teachers attended a special lunch in the library. A lunch of pizza and salad was served to these deserving students who demonstrate good character throughout Hudson High School. Students who showed responsibility, fairness, trustworthiness, respect, citizenship, and caring on a regular basis were chosen to partake in this event. However, if you didn't get in, fear not, for a different group of students is chosen to participate in this event every quarter.



**Students enjoying PBIS Lunch**



## Winter Sports Recap By Richard Dellavechia

The winter sports season has come to a close, with every team making sectionals. The Girls Varsity Basketball team was seeded 12th and faced Ihabod Crane, who was the 5th seed. The game was played at Ihabod, and the girls came up short in the end. The final score was 37-23, with Ihabod advancing. The Boys Varsity Basketball team was seeded 10th and faced the 7th seed, Voorheesville. The game was played at Voorheesville and the Bluehawks were defeated, 60-44. The Boys Varsity Volleyball team was seeded 5th and had to face Coxsackie-Athens, who was the 4th seed. The game was played at Coxsackie-Athens and the Bluehawks lost in 3 sets, 3-0. The Varsity Bowling team had sectionals at the Boulevard Bowl in Schenectady. They finished in the middle of the field with over twenty-five teams in the tournament. Congratulations to all the athletes who made all-star teams for their respective sports. They are as follows:

**Boys Basketball:** 1st Team: Michael Alert 2nd Team: Tyler Dellavechia and Kimedrick Murphy

**Girls Basketball:** 1st Team: Ja-Nayia Ivery 2nd Team: Jasmine Peck

**Boys Volleyball** 1st Team: Richard Dellavechia and Jacob Topple 2nd Team: Chris Merante



## Volleyball Tournament Results By Gina Leccese

On March 13th, the Hudson High Varsity Club held its second annual volleyball tournament. Five teams competed in the event. Two of those teams were comprised of Hudson City School District Faculty. The members of each team are as follows:

**Student Team I-** Justin Slater, Daniel Folds, Ramar Rhymon, James Chaplin, Kimedrick Murphy, Eric Pinkowski, Cathryn Oliveri, Sarah Alvarez, Hannah Koskowski

**Savage Squad-** Richard Dellavechia, Jacob Topple, Chris Merante, Kelsey Alvarez, Alexis Peters, Maya Alvarez, Tyler Drahushuk, Zach Keeler, Joey Rivette

**Team Friendship-** Tyler Dellavechia, Ethan Peters, Chris Meano, Mykal Walters, Karissa Garbarini, Hailey Beaumont, Shelbi Neal, Corey Topple, Noah Taylor

**You Got Served-** Mr. Hernandez, Mrs. Flint, Mr. McDarby, Mrs. Naramore, Mrs. Nowak, Mr. Ohrin, Mrs. Roehr

**Blood, Sweat, and Tears-** Ms. Clark, Tim Nixon, Ryan Groll, Karrie Allen, Donna Coons, Matt, Mike

All five teams played hard, but the team that came out on top was the faculty team Blood, Sweat, and Tears. They were rewarded with medals for their victory.

The money raised from the tournament went to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The event was able to raise about two hundred dollars. The volleyball tournament proved to be a success once again and will be held again next year.

## Book Review for Incantation by Alice Hoffman

By Saima Hannan

Ms. Cipollari's 9H class just finished reading *Incantation* by Alice Hoffman. It was published in 2006. This novel is historical fiction and has many amazing reviews. It is about a fifteen year old girl named Estrella de Madrigal who lived during the 1500s. The book describes what it was like during the Spanish Inquisition. Although I won't spoil it for people who are interested in reading it, I will say that this book is based around love, faith, and betrayal. There are many important themes and lessons that can be learned and used in the world today. The author did an amazing job in portraying what the characters felt and how others around them felt during certain parts of the novel. Personally, I enjoyed this novel. I thought it had just the right amount of everything. Betrayal played a huge role in shaping the novel, but faith was weaved in and out throughout the novel. I really liked the ending. Although I wanted some parts of the novel to be a little different, I liked the way the book ended. I couldn't imagine a different ending because the book ended the way I'd hoped it would. If you're looking for a quick historical fiction novel, *Incantation* by Alice Hoffman would be a great choice!

## The Book Club Reads On

By Ramisa Tasnim

Fridays during lunch, Mrs. Roehr, Mrs. Cipollari, and Mrs. Brust conduct a book club; they are currently reading *Brown Girl Dreaming* by the award-winning Jacqueline Woodson. *Brown Girl Dreaming* captures the life of Jacqueline Woodson in the 1960's and 1970's as she lives with the remnants of Jim Crow Laws and the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement. In vivid poems, Jacqueline takes readers on a journey from the hot, aroma-filled kitchen in her grandmother's home in South Carolina to the drab, traffic-filled streets of New York. The book sends a powerful message of love, togetherness, and the power of family to all its readers. Jacqueline Woodson will be one of the several authors that will be coming to the Hudson Children's Book Festival on May 2nd. The participants of this book club will be invited to lunch and will personally meet Jacqueline Woodson during the last book club meeting on May 1st!

