

The OWL



May 2019

Book Festival By Rida Farzana

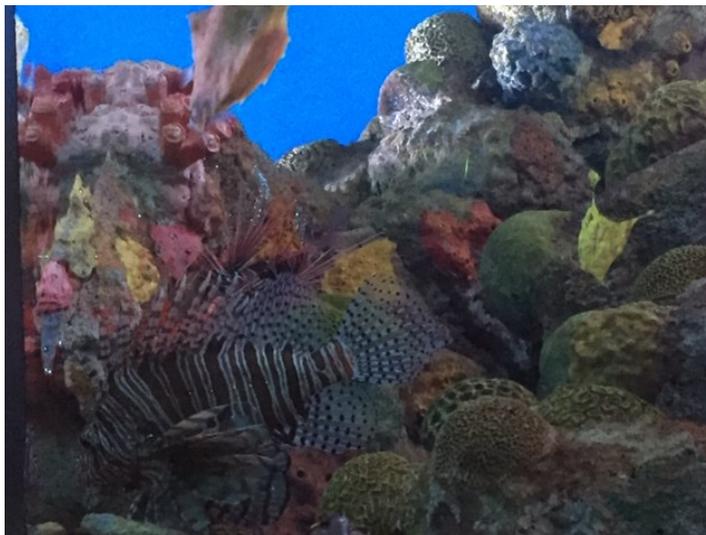
On Saturday, May 4th, the 11th annual Hudson Children Book Festival was held at Hudson High School. Over 75 authors and illustrators attended the festival! There were performances by various artists and community members, not to mention free books. John Farrell (an award winning author, songwriter, storyteller, and peace educator who travels the world sharing stories and writing songs) performed *Make This World a Little Better: Songs and Stories of Peace and Hope*. Morgan Taylor, characterized by the *New York Times* as “Dr. Seuss Meets ‘Yellow Submarine’” and a Grammy® nominated artist, performed his one-of-a-kind music and animation show at the Hudson Children’s Book Festival. Morgan also performed his best selling audible original *I’m From the Sun*, alongside classic fan favorites. Columbia County Youth Theatre Performing Company acted out *Tall Tales and Heroes*. The musical review helped familiarize people with American folk heroes such as Davy Crockett, Calamity Jane, and Molly Pitcher . Overall, the book festival was fantastic and we would like to thanks all who made the festival possible!



American Museum of Natural History and Boston Whale Watch By Ahsraful Shamrat

On Monday, April 15th, Mr. McDarby's AP Biology class, Marine Science class, Envirothon and Environmental Club and Mrs. Flint's Living Environment Honors' class took a bus to New York City to visit the one and only American Museum of Natural History. Founded in 1869, this museum contains some of the most jaw-dropping exhibits. This beautiful, historic venue is located adjacent to Central Park and is constantly bustling with tourists and knowledge seekers alike. Students rushed inside and were eager to start their adventure. There were several areas of exhibits including: the Earth and Space Halls, Fossil Halls, Animal Halls, Environment Halls and Human and Culture Halls. Within these halls were exhibits on the Big Bang Theory, global climate change, human and animal evolution, geography and rock formations and, of course, dinosaurs. There interactive exhibits and movies that were constantly displaying information. Students spent the majority of the day in the museum and were able to grab some souvenirs on their way home. The students were then able to go shopping in Woodbury Commons to end the day. Kids were able to agree that it was a day well spent.

More recently, Hudson High kids took a three hour trip to Boston to go whale watching. Bright and early, students boarded the bus at 6:30 a.m. and arrived at the Boston Harbor at 10:00 a.m., just in time for the boat departure. With a loud horn, the students eagerly left the port in search of whales. Over the crashing waves, the boat proceeded at full speed. It took roughly an hour to find prime whale areas. Tourists and students alike waited patiently and quietly for a hint of the largest animals on earth. Soon, the captain pointed whales on the right hand side. It was just a fin, but definitely enough to instill awe. Not too long afterwards, two Fin Whales were seen feeding. With dips and dives, boaters were able to see the underside, flippers, tails, and fins. Unfortunately, a full breach was not seen; nonetheless, it was an amazing sight for all. Even through the sea sickness, passengers watched on in amazement. When the students returned to land, they stretched their legs and headed off to Quincy Market, where bustling vendors and walkers filled the place with noise. With an hour to explore and eat, students traveled to every storefront and experienced the culture of Boston. The last stop of the trip was the New England Aquarium. Once again, students were able to gaze upon the vast array of fish. Students were able to physically touch rays, starfish, coral, and hermit crabs. Among the most notable animals were tunas, hammerhead sharks, sea turtles, and rockhopper penguins. When students had their fill, they stopped by the gift store, picked up some memorabilia, and went on their merry way. It was a three hour ride back, but students left Boston with a sense of satisfaction.





Coxsackie Correctional Facility Visit

By Ahsraful Shamrat

For the first time ever, Hudson High's Sociology class took a trip to the Coxsackie Correctional Facility to study prison design and mass incarceration. On Tuesday, May 14th, Mrs. Abitabile's Sociology Class toured the maximum security facility. They arrived to a set of massive of barbed wire fences. They had to pass through several levels of security. Students were not allowed to bring in phones or any other object. The students met with the Superintendent of the prison, who gave them a rundown of the facility. They went to the cafeteria where select prisoners who have been rehabilitated were cooking for others. Interestingly, these prisoners were allowed to work with knives and other instruments. Later, students were able to tour the cells and get a glimpse of how prisoners are housed. It is not roomy to say the least! Students learned about various programs and initiatives available to prisoners such as the college level courses through Bard College and other arts programs. As the last part of the tour, students were able to have an Q&A session with two convicted felons. One felon was serving life on murder charges while the other prisoner was serving twelve years for illegal possession of fire-arms. They explained their situation and how prison helped them reflect upon their mistakes. They spoke upon their families, their personal experiences in prison, and even their tattoos. The students definitely took much away from trip and were able to better understand the effect of mass incarceration and the effectiveness of prisons.



The Lazy Person's Guide to Applying for College

By Autumn Kudlack

High School is one of the best times of your life. There are sports to play, club meetings to attend, and, unfortunately, work to be done. The best thing to know, though, is that high school is a preparation for your future career. A lot of the time, that means college. If you don't want to go to college, that is completely okay. Trade school is a good option if you'd like to get into some skilled work, and I would recommend looking into Questar programs. However, if you'd like to go to college, read on to see if you are on the right track.

Steps of Applying for College:

1. **Study for the SAT/ACT.** Khan Academy (<https://www.khanacademy.org/>) helped me so much with the SAT and it's free. ACT Academy is another free resource on the ACT website. You will be able to get a better score by studying from the comfort of your own home.
2. **Visit colleges!** Try not to apply to colleges that you haven't visited. Compile a list of colleges you like and determine whether you would like to apply Early Decision.
3. **Take the SAT/ACT** at least once before your senior year if it is required for any of the colleges you want to go to. It is a good recommendation to take each at least once. After that, you can re-take the one you liked best.
4. **Ask for references** from teachers that know you best. Most colleges require around two references, and sometimes accept references from the community. Ask a coach if you'd like, or a pastor.
5. **Write a draft of the Common App essay** before your senior year starts. This will make it so you don't have to worry about senior classes and applications interfering and will make it easier for you to apply early action.
6. The first day of school, **talk to Ms. Wheeler** about your essay and application. Ms. Wheeler is an amazing resource for making sure your essay is great. She will help you write and edit it. You could even get a head start and try to finish your essay this year.
7. **Apply by November 1st.** Although most colleges will have later deadlines, November 1st is the early action deadline, which I highly highly recommend. Applying early will make it so that you will have a better chance to get in and get more money. I procrastinated a lot and waited until very close to January to apply to many colleges. Most of the colleges I got in to, I applied earlier.
8. **Complete the FAFSA.**
9. **Check the checklist.** Once you have applied, you will receive an email with account information from your schools which will more likely than not include a checklist of required materials. Make sure you complete them all.

Key Information:

Common App will open August 1.

FAFSA will open October 1.

Sources:

www.prepscholar.com -for info about tests

www.collegeraptor.com, [bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search](http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/) -picking colleges

www.cappex.com -finding scholarships

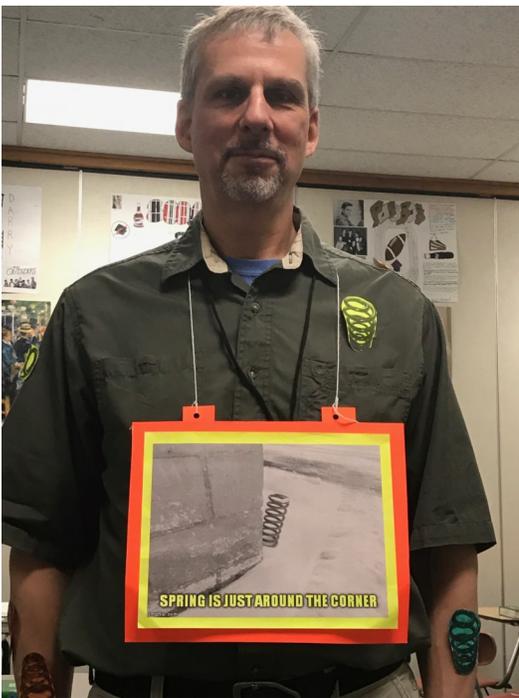
There is a separate SUNY application.

IDOC may be required for your schools.

Spirit Week & Field Day







END OF SCHOOL MEME



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