

The OWL



November 2017

The Veterans' Day Parade By Hemel Debnath

The Veterans' Day Parade is held annually by community members in the city of Hudson, New York as a special way to remember local veterans. These heroes risked their lives to ensure safety for all Americans. Originally, the holiday Veterans' Day was known as Armistice Day because of the armistice signed between leaders of Allied and German forces at the end of World War 1 in France, at the 11th hour, on the 11th day, of the 11th month, of the year 1918. The idea of remembering the service of veterans was gradually incorporated into a holiday. The parade was held at approximately 10:30 a.m., after the laying of a wreath at the 7th Street Park Veterans' monument. The parade ended at the Courthouse Park on Fourth Street. Beginning with a series of marchers, bearing the star and stripe spangled American flag, the parade included several drummers, former veterans of previous wars (riding in military vehicles and displaying their prized guns), firefighters riding in firetrucks, and members of our very own Hudson High School band! Every member of the Veterans' Day Parade contributed to creating an extremely happy and exciting atmosphere to honor the work of veterans. Flashing lights and tunes were played by drummers and our own school band members (such as *The Marine's Hymn*) that rivaled the day's extremely frigid temperatures of 18 degrees Fahrenheit. The real message that was conveyed was that Veterans' Day is not only a day of happiness, to enjoy a vacation from work or school. but is most importantly a day to remember that all of us are able to live free because of the service of our veterans!



Living the Example: The Mentor Foundation By Sharmin Akther

Hudson High Seniors are now involved in the eye-opening Mentor Foundation. You could say they are living the example. Students of Hudson High were asked to participate as Youth Ambassadors in the program throughout Columbia County. Being a Youth Ambassador entails being a, “highly motivated advocate for the prevention of substance abuse and spreading of knowledge amongst their peers.” To do so, the students who are a part of the program will go through 5 sessions to discuss how to do such duties. In these 5 sessions, students will also brain storm an activity and/or multiple activities to fund and to promote the idea of prevention and safe deeds. After the 5 sessions have been completed, students will be given a sum of money ranging from a couple hundred to \$1,000 to put forth the project.

The Mentor Foundation is run by Kamal Johnson and Katharine Vera. Both are a part of the Hudson School District and have put forth much effort to help the youth in the program. So far there are around 15 students participating in the sessions. They meet Wednesdays after school for about an hour. Even though students may not be able to fully be a part of the sessions right now, students can get an idea from this article about whether or not this might be an option for the future. The students and the adults who are a part of this program hope to make a change in Hudson.

Student Council Update: Microwaves and Flags By Saima Hannan

Student Council has been hard at work and new ideas for our school are pouring in. Just recently, students have been given the opportunity to warm their food in the cafeteria with the new microwave. It has been convenient and students really seem to be finding it very useful. At the moment, Student Council is working on another exciting project, which we hope will show our school’s diversity. We are planning on putting up flags of the different countries that the students at Hudson High are from. The students will soon be asked to fill out a google form, which will ask about their nationality. The assortment of flags will be gathered when the results come in. As of right now, we are planning on putting the flags in the event entrance. We hope that everything works out, so be sure to keep an eye out for the google form.

YES Program By Mashuda Sultana

The YES Program stands for Youth Employment Services. It was mainly organized for students ages fourteen and up. The goal is to help them gain job skills. In YES Program, students get to learn how to be great workers. Ms. McSherry runs the program. In order to get the YES Program certificate, students have to attend all twenty days. If a student is sick, it’s their responsibility to contact Ms. McSherry. For example, if you have a game, practice, or any other club meetings, you should contact Ms. McSherry and let her know. She strongly believes that students should be responsible and contact her. By attending the YES Program, students learn how to create their job resumes and how to be a good workers. The very first meeting of the YES Program was on November 14th. If you are interested in the YES Program, I encourage you to sign up for it next year.

Blue Star Mothers' Fundraiser By Annaliese Tampasis

As part of the celebration of our Vets, the Kindness Club collected money on their Kindness Cart and contributed their earned "tip" money to The Blue Star Mothers. They collected items such as: cookies, beef jerky, energy bars, K-cups, Pringles, trail mix, toothpaste, toothbrushes, playing cards, deodorants, shampoo, bar soaps, disposable cameras, tissues, etc. and willingly wrote letters to the soldiers serving overseas. They collected an astounding 50 pounds of goodies and over \$180 in donations! The Kindness Club invited three mothers, including former teacher Max Thornton and teacher aide Deb Osuch, to join them for tea, along with Korean War Veteran, Eugene Datri and Michael Kindlon, who served 20 years in the Air Force and in Desert Storm, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan. The groups shared stories while they enjoyed tea, cookies, homemade muffins and bread.

Also, the Kindness Club invited Army Reservist, Brian McSween, on November 6. He brought his gear and shared stories of boot camp and training. Additionally, the club invited two Hudson VFW (Veterans of Foreign War) veterans who served in Vietnam. Terry received a purple heart from the Army for his service in the trenches of the jungle in Vietnam and Randy served in the Navy on a ship that toured the entire globe. The Kindness Club generously provided a helping hand to the local VFW by passing out Buddy Poppies with donations totaling over \$150.

I want to recognize the tremendous efforts The Kindness Club has given. We want to thank you individually for the time you gave and the wonderful event you fundraised!



Hudson Robotics' Team

By Hasan Mufti & Ahsraf Shamrat

The Hudson High Robotics is bigger and better than ever. Our very own Weapons of Mass Construction (Team 1665) are off to a great start this year and show no sign of stopping. With over 15 new members, the Weapons of Mass Construction are bound to shake up the competition. The competition theme has yet to be announced, but it will have something to do with retro video games, similar to Super Mario Bros. Team 1665, led by Mr. Beyer and Mr. Buhler, are veterans of the competition and know their way around the matches. If we are successful at the regional competitions this year, we will be traveling to St. Louis to participate in the Worlds' Nations! Competitors from all over the world will be at this event and will be held in the St. Louis Rams' stadium. However, the actual build season begins in January, so the pre-season before that will be grueling. There are many things to accomplish even before the building of the robot begins. The future of Hudson Robotics looks bright though.

Before we can get to go to our competitions at Rensselaer and Utica, we have to raise a lot of money for transportation and hotel rooms for all the members of the Robotics Team. In order to raise money, we will be having fundraisers at events like the Winter Walk. We are also considering doing other fundraisers such as a coin drop and after school food sales. We really hope we will be able to make enough money for the team as a whole and we wish to see you help us with doing so. We wish to thank you in advance! For more information about the Robotics Club, contact Mr. Beyer and Mr. Buhler.

Unity Day 2017

Hudson High School students contributed 260 positive comments on orange cards on Unity Day, October 25, 2017, to be distributed to the students at Hudson Intermediate School. Unity Day is a day set aside against bullying, to stand up for what is right, as well as to promote a positive atmosphere throughout the school. The Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) students, in conjunction with students from Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), helped organize the event. Many of the students from Hudson High School wore orange, symbolizing unity, and wrote encouraging cards to younger students at the Intermediate School. Students wanted to make an impact on the lives of others and through writing positive notes, they were able to reach out and encourage other students. Many students at the HS learned that it feels good to be able to do something kind for a stranger. Both the GSA and SADD Clubs are grateful to the students and staff that took the time to wear orange and write encouraging and inspiring words to the Intermediate School students.

The picture to your right is a sample of some of the thoughtful, inspiring and uplifting notes that Hudson High School students wrote for the Intermediate School students.



Hudson High School Clubs

By Matt Steils

Hudson High School has many fun clubs that students can join! One of our goals is to get as many student involved as possible. There is something for everyone so see below and decide what interests you and join!

Art Club: If you can think of a form of art, there's a good chance you can explore it here. Always open to everyone, feel free to come get creative! (Tuesdays during lunch, Albino)

Environmental Club: Do you care about the environment and want to help it? Then here is where you'll be able to. There are a few fundraisers and chances for community service. (First Tuesday of every month, McDarby)

Envirothon: is a competition of New York environmental facts. It competes against schools from Columbia County all the way down to Putnam and Westchester counties. If you get first in county, then it's off to States! (Tuesdays and Thursdays after school, McDarby)

Games Club: From card games to board games, games club has what you're looking for. The most popular games include Magic The Gathering, Dungeons and Dragons, and Chess. (After school on Fridays, Renner)

Gay Straight Alliance: GSA is an all inclusive club for every student here at Hudson. Plans for this year include having speakers come in from the Hudson Pride and school events throughout the year, including a day of silence (Thursdays during lunch, Pare, Roehr, and Engel)

Mock Trial: is a competition created and coordinated by the NY State Bar Association. Learn about law in civil and criminal cases, how to prosecute and defend a case, and compete against other schools to move from county to sectionals, and then to states. (After school on Mondays, Naramore)

Multi-Cultural Club: Allows students to celebrate different cultures from around the world. Productions for this year include their talent show, Hudson High Has Talent, and the Multi-Cultural Festival. (Fridays during lunch, Talma and Rodriguez)

The Owl: The producer of the paper you're currently reading. Choose from a wide range of topics to write about, or come up with your own! New writers are always welcome! (Cipollari and Near)

Poetry Cafe: "Food for the body and food for the soul". Come enjoy good food, talk about current events, and share some poems with the group! (Tuesdays during lunch, Wheeler)

Robotics: FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) is an international high school robotics competition. Each year, teams of high school students, coaches, and mentors work during a six-week period to build game-playing robots. It's "the hardest fun you'll ever have!" (Team will meet prior to build season, and then meets almost every day after this years kickoff on January 6th)

SADD: Students Against Destructive Decisions. This club is dedicated to keeping kids away from bad influences such as alcohol and drugs (Vera)

Select Choir: If you're in choir and want to sing more complicated music, this is a great way to get more singing experience. (Mondays during lunch, Tuesdays after school, and Wednesdays during lunch, Cordato)

Tri-M: Hudson's Tri-M is a part of the National Music Honor Society. If you're involved in any of the music programs here, you're welcome to join the student body that makes a number of the decisions regarding their activities (Fridays after school, Vorwald and Cordato)

Varsity Club: is a community service organization for athletes, including participating in 3 blood drives every year. If you've played a varsity sport and want a varsity jacket, come and do community service with us! (Tuesdays during lunch, Flint)

Yearbook: If anyone is interested in adding their input to how this year's yearbook is made, come by and see where you can help out! (Thursdays during lunch, Nowak and Keyser)

Interview with Mrs. Talma By Osman Gofran

Mrs. Talma is one of the new teachers at Hudson High. She teaches four classes of Spanish II and a class of Spanish IV, a college level class. Mrs. Talma grew up in Albany and enjoys going to concerts, trying new foods, and reading in her spare time. She previously worked at Albany High for six years and at Taconic Hills for five years as a Spanish teacher. This year at Hudson High will make it her twelfth year of teaching Spanish. Mrs. Talma graduated from SUNY New Paltz with her Bachelor's degree and from SUNY Albany with her Master's. While in college, she majored in Secondary Ed, with a concentration in English, and majored in Spanish. Even before college, Mrs. Talma was very active. During high school, she was part of the Poetry Club, ran track, was in the Students for Peace and Survival Club (an activism club), in the Key Club and participated in school plays.

When asked about how she feels about Hudson High, she says that she “really enjoys the diversity, the wide range of many topics, kids being open and getting involved in class discussions.” She also finds that students at Hudson are active learners and like to participate in groups and work together mostly. The advice that Mrs. Talma gives to student is to “never be afraid to ask questions because that’s how you get clarification and knowledge and grow from it.” Mrs. Talma describes the best part of her job is working with the staff and students. The worst part of her job is the amount of hours that is put into it. She believes that that is what has to be done to get everything planned for the students. Mrs. Talma explains that she wanted to become a teacher because her mom was also a teacher and school always fascinated her. When she got into high school, several teachers gave her the guidance that she needed and helped her realize that being a teacher would enable her to help others with their education. That is why she says the most important characteristic of teaching is having an extreme amount of patience, giving kids a chance, and working with them to get better. Something people really don’t know about Mrs. Talma is that she is a musician who plays the guitar and sings. We concluded the interview with Mrs. Talma saying how much she loves it so far at Hudson High, “I’m happy to be here and I’m loving it!”



Five Yard Take Away: PowderPuff Game

By Byonte Jones

Every year, the Junior and Senior classes go head to head in a flag football game. Each team picks its coaches. Those who are chosen are usually members of the Hudson football team and start to practice for the big day. Only seven to eight players can be on the field at a time and two coaches are allowed to help. This year, the game was held on Friday, November 17 on the new Bluehawk Sports Complex, under the lights. All of the proceeds went to Breast Cancer Awareness and both teams wore a variation of pink. It was an intense game for both teams. The Seniors wanted to prove they could be victorious over the Juniors since they lost their Junior year. The Juniors wanted to show their skill and prove they could beat the upper class. At the start of the game, the Seniors won the coin toss and started on offense with the ball. Through all four quarters of the game the scoreboard read 0-0 until overtime: Juniors won the coin toss and received the ball at the fifth yard line. They had four downs to make it into the end zone or else it would become a turn over. On the first snap the Junior quarterback, Sarah Alvarez, received the ball and ran straight through the Seniors' defensive line into the end zone, ending the game, 6-0 Juniors!



Students on the Run Recipe

By Sharmin Akther



Maple Blueberry Oatmeal

The Students on the Run Recipes brings Maple Blueberry Oatmeal! This nice breakfast treat can be made overnight for the go getters in the morning. A quick recipe to be made for a quick and easy delectable. This recipe was inspired not only for the busy high school teen but also for the busy college student. This recipe is simple and easy to make, even in a student's college dorm!

Ingredients

1/2 cup old fashioned oats
1/2 cup milk + splash in the morning
1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon flax seeds
1 teaspoon maple syrup
1/2 cup fresh blueberries

Instructions

- Put all ingredients in a jar or bowl.
- Stir so everything is combined.
- Put lid on, and put in refrigerator overnight.
- In the morning, splash a bit of milk on top and stir around again.
- Enjoy!

Senior Interviews

By Hasiter Tonni, Abida Begum, and Most Khatun

This month, we interviewed some seniors to see if they have any advice for the underclassmen and they gave us some great advice.

Kierstin Colloton's specific advice for the underclassmen was to pay attention in class and focus on your grades. Kierstin says to keep your grades up because it will pay off in the future. Her recommendations for clubs and sports are Environmental Club, Poetry Club, and track. She also says that the underclassmen should do a lot of fundraising. To get into a good college, Kierstin believes that it is good to take AP and Honors classes, pay attention to your teachers, get good grades, and do all your homework. She said, "all your hard work will pay off." One thing that Kierstin suggests the underclassmen should not do is get into drama. The last piece of advice that Kierstin had was that the underclassmen should take their time figuring out what they want to be. Adding to that, she also said that eleventh grade is when you have to start thinking about colleges and your future.



Daniela Rivera's advice for the underclassmen was to stay in school. She also said, "make sure to do your homework." Daniela said if you're interested in sports, then play them and join clubs as well. You should also take AP and honors classes. "Thinking about what you want to do would be very helpful. I'm begging you! Start thinking about what college you want to attend and your career in 11th grade. Make sure to keep your grades up and please pay attention to your teachers."

Monsur Choudury's advice for the underclassmen was to stay in class, stay focused, and participate in a lot of clubs. Monsur personally recommends The Owl, Envirothon, and Robotics, but he also says that it depends on your interests and what you like. For sports, he recommends soccer and track. He says not take the easy way out of things because that way students don't learn anything. Monsur says that we should study a lot for our classes. He thinks volunteering at the Salvation Army, and volunteering at different things in general, are good outside activities for the underclassmen. Finally, Monsur ends with his biggest advice and that is to take opportunities and face the difficulties head on. "If you take opportunities now, it will be much more easier later on in the future."



Most Islam gave the underclassmen some good advice as well. Some of her most important pieces of advice were to study and do your homework. Most also said that time management is key saying, "don't fall behind." She told us, "you should also start being competitive and it's better if you start thinking about your GPA and senior year before you're a senior. Join some clubs, sports and work at the concession stands. Playing sports make your college resume look good. Play sports that interest you. My recommendation for sports are tennis and track. Some recommendations for clubs are The Owl, Environmental Club, Varsity Club, Envirothon, Math Club, Scrub Club, and SADD. If you are eligible for AP or honors classes, then you should take them. Sophomore year is when you should start thinking about the colleges you want to attend and your career.

Pay more attention to your teachers so you do good in all your classes and on tests. Try to keep your grades where you want them to be because all your grades are added to your GPA. If your grade is low and you want to increase it, ask your teacher if there are any extra credit projects. To conclude, don't make the mistake of trusting the wrong people and don't make bad friends."

Senior Interviews Continued

Siddique Ahmed has given us some great advice on staying on task and how important education is. As a senior, he realized that time management is key and that students should take their time in learning a subject. He also realized that students like to slack off and take the easy way out, without learning anything. His recommendations for clubs were Mock Trial, Poetry Club, Environmental Club, and Robotics. He says it depends on what you are interested in and would like to do in your spare time. He suggests that for sports, soccer, track and volleyball are good sports to play as freshmen. Siddique urges students to not get caught up in drama, as that could lead to not being concentrated on your education. If you are struggling, the senior advises the underclassmen to reach out for help as soon as possible and to help other students with the classes that you are doing good in. Siddique recommends volunteering, getting involved in school government and doing outdoor hobbies. Lastly, his biggest advice to the freshmen was that education opens the door to the future, so “take opportunities now and it will be easier in the long run. If you do not take you opportunities now, at the lower level of education, then it will be harder for you to achieve success in the long run.”



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