

UPCOMING

EVENTS:

- Now-June-Class of 2016 Sweatshirt Sale
- 12/17-Winter Concert
- 12/17-Class of 2015 Bake Sale
- 12/23-1/3-Holiday Vacation
- 1/8-1/22-Class of 2015 Little Caesar's Pizza Sale
- 1/20-Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 1/27-1/31-Midterms
- 1/31-Drama Club Talent Show
- 2/12-Class of 2015 Dining to Donate Fundraiser at Applebee's
- 2/17-2/21-Winter Break

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The Owl is now online! Look for our editions, with color photos, under the Hudson High School link!

Power of Peace Comes To Hudson!

By Emily Sateholt

Have you ever wondered what school would be like without bullying, disrespect, and violence?

Over the course of six days, 65 Hudson High School students took part in Youth Voice Center's "Power of Peace" Workshop. This organization was founded by Executive Director Michael Arterberry, who is also the Creator of the Power of Peace Workshop, along with two colleagues, Jose and Chris. The program teaches the importance of positive youth development, leadership, conflict resolution, teamwork, collaboration, decision making, respect for others and self, as well as accepting the differences in others.

During these sessions, each student is randomly chosen

to represent various ages, races, religions, along with other differentiating factors. The 15-25 students involved were isolated from the rest of school in order to focus on skills openly. Some of these skills were: enabling young people to experience then apply the knowledge of resolving conflicts, understanding teamwork, cooperation and respect for others regardless of our different perceptions. In order to keep the contents discussed at the two day workshop private, the attendees promised to keep all discussions private, to insure that they would feel free to say anything.

As an attendee of this course myself, I felt that it was well worth the two days out of classes. Afterwards, I felt changed



by the experience. Meeting new students, and learning about self-respect and respect toward others, has made an impact, not only on the way I perceive people, but the way they perceive me. The course that Mike and his other teachers have taught was not only fun, but very heartening. I would encourage anyone to take this workshop. Michael and his helpers will return for six more days of level 1 training with 75 new students in February, and level 2 training for 50 of the level 1 students in the spring. If you would like to know more about this workshop, or you want to set up a workshop for your school, you can go to their website: www.youthvoicescenter.org or email them at: powerofpeace@snet.net

Students Vs. Teachers in Jeopardy

By Mariah Gambino

On Friday, November 22nd, the teachers of Hudson High School challenged students in a game of Jeopardy. There were four representatives on each team. The game took place after school in the high school auditorium.

Some of the categories of questions that were asked were: 90s Actors, Name That

Song, and Movie Titles. Danielle Risley, Amanda Chaplin and Zarqa Khalid were the ones who selected the questions that were asked. The teachers, who won after Final Jeopardy, included: Mr. Finelli, Ms. Factor, Mrs. Spenzieri, and Mr. Mc Darby. The students were: James Chaplin, Mariah Gambino, Alexandra Hoffman and Sarah Bartolotta.



Mr. Hernandez was the host. A good time was had by all, including the audience who helped support Mock Trial. We hope to continue this event in the future.



The Y.E.S Program

By Mariah Gambino

The Y.E.S program, Youth Employment Services, is one of many extraordinary programs Hudson Senior High has to offer. This program looks to educate and alter young students for the work force in just twelve weeks of classes. Mrs. McSherry is the coordinator of Y.E.S and a social worker at Hudson Junior High, as well. The program teaches students how to be equipped for their job interview and how to conduct themselves properly while on the job.

Although the program is free, there are few requirements. Students are allowed absolutely no disciplinary referrals, and the students are expected to show responsible and respectful behavior towards staff and teachers. If students do not comply with these simple expectations, they are taken out of the program. "If they cannot show responsibility during training, we certainly cannot allow them into the work field" stated Mrs. McSherry.

After the twelve weeks of job preparation, the students are set up with an interview provided by Mrs. McSherry and other staff members. If all goes well, the students get the job. Then, they're expected to complete a total of thirty-six hours of community service at a rate of eight dollars an hour. After the students conclude their thirty-six hours, they receive a certificate of completion and their pay check as well. What a great way for students to prepare for the work force!

G.S.A

By Mariah Gambino and Jenna Gregory

Do you want to sign up for a club? If so, GSA (which stands for Gay Straight Alliance) would be a great club to join. GSA provides a safe environment. The teachers and students involved are all wonderful people. The teachers that are involved are Ms. Pare, Ms. Roehr, and Mrs. Engel.

GSA is a club that aims to create a welcoming and accepting environment. "Everyone is welcome." said Ms. Roehr in an interview.

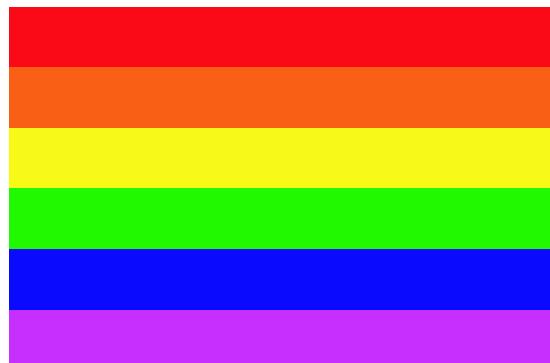
GSA gives students a better understanding of how diversity enriches lives. GSA provides the youth with a safe place to express issues that have an effect on them without the fear of being bullied and harassed. It is estimated that over 1,000 GSAs have formed in the last ten years in the United States!

GSA is involved in some events. GSA members made orange ribbons for anti-bullying day. "350 ribbons

were passed out to support no bullying" said Ms. Roehr. There is also a book club. The novel that is being read for the book club is *My Awful Popularity Plan* by Seth Rudetsky. "Book club was great. The books were donated to us" said Mrs. Engel.

When the question "What do you want to express through GSA?" was asked, Mrs. Engel responded by saying "A safe welcoming environment for all students. A variety of students are involved. Kids and adults come for many reasons. One reason kids and adults come is to support family and friends."

"Staff does support GSA. We plan to give a staff a safe place as well. We want more teachers to be involved" Ms. Roehr said in an interview. GSA is a great program and is recommended to anyone who wants to join!



Kindness Club Update

By Ramisa Tasnim

The Kindness Club is going strong and continuing to spread kindness with everything they do at Hudson High. They did a presentation for the Board of Education on December 9th about their amazing program! There is even more exciting news coming up. The Kindness Club now has their own coffee blend that they call "Kindness Blend." They are planning on selling coffee and mugs, which are perfect gifts for the holidays. They

are ten dollars or you can buy just the coffee for five dollars. There is an auction going on for the staff at Hudson High. Teachers bid on many items, which supports the Kindness Club.

There was already one family who visited the Kindness Closet! They were a family of six members and they left with useful items. All of these activities would not be possible without Mrs. Foronda. Her dedication and faith

in her students makes the Kindness Club so successful!



Faculty Flashback by Caitlyn Patrick

Many of the faculty at Hudson High School were former students of the school. They had to take the same courses we did, experience the same tests, and some even had the same teachers that we've had. Mrs. Zincio, the health teacher, graduated Hudson High in 1996. She had two favorite subjects in school--math and English. She participated in multiple school activites including the club that she is now the advisor for, S.A.D.D. She also participated in the school plays, cheerleading, track, yearbook, Student Council, National Honor Society, and during

her senior year, she was crowned homecoming queen. "I played basketball for one semester. I only scored once and it was for the other team" she said, when concluding her list of activities.

During their time in high school, many people find favorite teachers. Mrs. Zincio had a few teachers that she was close with. Some of those teachers were Mr. Gavin, who taught social studies, Mrs. Randall, who was her English teacher, and Mrs. Libruk who taught Living Environment and just retired last year. When asked if she ever expected to be back at her high school teaching, Mrs. Zincio was quick to answer "never!" It wasn't until 2008 that she decided

she wanted to be a health teacher. Mrs. Zincio says that she has no regrets about her years in high school. She is thankful for her job and happy to be teaching students about how to have a better understanding of their lives. She dedicates the majority of her time to her students and makes it a point to show that the class is all about them. She concludes her feelings about her high school years with the statement; "I believe everything happens for a reason. Without those years, I wouldn't be who I am today."



Spanish Field Trip

By Farzan Akhter & Fahmida Choudhury



Mrs. Gazzera's Spanish class took a field trip to the Egg in Albany to see Viva Flamenco. They viewed the cultural dances in Spain and listened to Spanish music. The most famous dance, Sevilla, is one of Spain's most famous performances. These dances are usually very difficult since they are performed on a wooden floor and require a lot of foot work. The students also enjoyed a delicious breakfast at a Mexican restaurant where they tasted samples of Mexican cuisine. The trip was a fun time for all. Students learned a great deal and got to take part in real Spanish culture!



Getting To Know Mrs. Bender

By Emily Spateholts

Mrs. Bender is currently the AP Global 9 teacher and one of the class advisors for the freshman class. She went to Schenectady High School. Her favorite subject was history, but she never really wanted to become a teacher. After high school, she went to three colleges: LeMoyne in Syracuse, SUNY Binghamton, and SUNY Albany. She majored in History and Secondary Education and minored in French. However in college, she began to develop interest in becoming a

teacher, "Have you ever had that one teacher who is so into what they do and love what they do that it makes you enjoy that subject? That's how she was with me," Mrs. Bender explained. Her first teaching job was at Lansingburgh teaching 8th grade social studies. She was first introduced to Hudson by the principal she was working with, who recommended that she would do well at Hudson High.

When asked if she

had any words for kids who might want to become teachers, she said: " Be persistent. You won't always get a job at the start. Stay organized. In order to be a good teacher, organization is key. Also, enjoy what you do!" We thank Mrs. Bender for becoming the freshman class advisor and give her a big warm welcome to Hudson High School!

HHS Performs Beauty & The Beast

By Jenna Gregory

The play that Hudson is doing this year is Beauty and The Beast. The play will be performed in March. Auditions were recently held. Around 50 people auditioned, which is the most auditions that Hudson

has ever had for the play! On December 9th, the roles for the play were put up. Many people are excited and content with the roles that they received.

Mrs. Mastrianni and everybody in the play work very hard. Rehearsals are after

school a couple days a week. The students practice for a couple of hours. Everybody is very dedicated and excited for Beauty and The Beast. The Owl will keep you updated. Mark your calendars for the play in March!

Faculty Flashback #2

By Gina Leccese

Have you ever wondered what one of your teachers was like in high school? Did they want to be teachers or did they have another profession in mind? One of our history teachers, Mr. Cukerstein, decided that he would become a history teacher when he was in 11th grade.

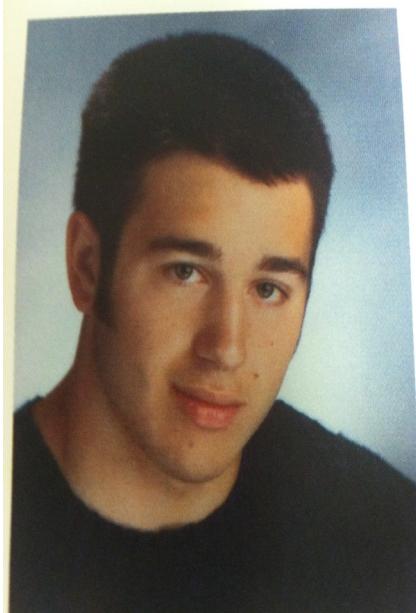
Mr. Cukerstein went to Hudson High School and graduated in 2001. Of course his favorite subject in school was global history! He enjoyed global history so much because

it included a lot of cultures from around the world and covered a long span of time. His favorite teacher was Mr. Dean, who taught global and American history. He liked to have discussions with his students and give his opinions on what was being studied. Mr. Dean was a fascinating person who was passionate about history and teaching.

When Mr. Cukerstein was a junior, he decided that he would become a history teacher at Hudson High School. He was very self-motivated in school. At that time, Mr. Cukerstein knew

that a position for a history teacher would open up in five years when another teacher retired. After going to college he applied for that position. However, he was unable to get the job. He taught 7th grade in Catskill for a year before going back to graduate school. He got his Master's in History and then applied for another position at Hudson High which he did get. Now, as a teacher, he really values the time off he is able to receive.

Other things that he participated in during high school included playing football and basketball. Today, Mr. Cukerstein coaches both of the sports that he played at Hudson High.



The MAI Durational Read

By Sheila Pineda



The MAI was started by Marina Abramovic. She decided to bring the MAI to Hudson because during one summer, she came to Chatham to visit a friend. They toured Hudson and Maria fell in love with it! She liked how it was a city but had so much nature that added to Hudson's beauty. This led her to purchase a building.

They do a lot of things at the Marina Abramovic Institute. One of the things they do is a long durational work. What that means is that they hold events like six hour plays or they have galleries where people visit without electronics, except for a wrist watch, to look at the paintings. I know it doesn't really sound fun but you really have to try it first before you can judge it. The whole point of it is so that you can go somewhere and escape from the busy, electronic world we live in. You can watch a play for six hours or walk in a gallery that has no clocks, so you never feel the need to rush. You realize that once you leave the building, you amaze yourself that you could enjoy and relax with no electronics to entertain you.

The MAI had held a 24 Hour Marathon Reading in the old Basilica building near the Hudson Train Station. The event was held on November the 23rd, at 2 pm, and it ended exactly twenty-four hours later. The reason they did this was so that they could get familiar with Hudson and the community. This was the first event they planned in the city and they hope to do more in the future. They wanted to get the community excited about the MAI. They are hoping to attract young people who are willing to participate in events.

The book that was chosen for the durational read was The City of Dreaming Books, by Walter Moers. The book is about a boy who goes on a journey to a city called Bookholm where he tries to find the mysterious author of a manuscript his godfather had. On his journey in Bookholm, he begins to realize everything isn't as it seems, especially when he begins to learn about Bookholm's dark secrets. One of those secrets could be about the dark and evil Shadow King. The reason they chose this book was because they doubted that anyone in Hudson had ever read before. It was also a good length for 24 hours. The main reason was because this book appeals to all ages, from kids to grandparents. No matter how old you are, you would really like the action, betrayal, adventure, and secrecy.

Hudson City School District students, from every building, read at the Durational Read. Administrators and teachers were also in attendance and volunteered to read. Hudson High School students who read were: Amber Harris, Ingrid Kildiss, Mohammed Kamrul Hassan, Ramisa Tasnim and Eoghan de Forrest. Mrs. Brust, Ms. Cipollari, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Dolan, Mr. Brenneman, Mr. Hanley, Mrs. Hanley, Ms. Dykeman and Mrs. Parmentier also volunteered their time and participated. Overall, it was a very successful event that tied the community and school together.



Captain Phillips

By Danny Gelles

A rivet is to a ship as riveting is to *Captain Phillips*. *Captain Phillips* keeps the audience's heart beating for the entire performance. Even before the arrival of the pirates, the audience was cringing on what could happen next. Director Paul Greengrass succeeds on filling in emotions and drama for characters of both the protagonist's side and antagonist's side , doing what few directors have done before.

The story starts and ends at a satisfactory pace. It started up with a direct path and ended with all ends tied up in the plot. The story covers the actions of a cargo ship captain named Richard Phillips who encounters traumatic circumstances while under the custody of Somalian Pirates. While most movies take the route of dehumanizing the captors, in *Captain Phillips*, each character's personality is developed and expressed. This allows the audience to truly feel and understand the struggles of the people. Each character's true colors are exposed as the movie progresses. Sympathy for the characters makes the ending a melancholy one.

Without giving too much away, the ending shows us a grim tale of the real world that sinks deeper than the situation at hand. Director Paul Greengrass and his acting surrogate, Tom Hanks, paint a picture of the modern horrors of being taken captive. Tom Hanks could not have been a better pick for the role of Richard Phillips. In the end, he accurately portrayed the horrors he saw and experienced. Overall the ending shows how delicate life is and with the change of the slightest elements, the balance of power can be changed. Even after the situation is over, the emotional effects will last forever.

The movie does well across the board. Each scene plays into the next without hesitation in an austere presence. Two elements in the camera work do stand out. One is close ups. These are experienced throughout the majority of the movie. At first they seem excessive but then serve a purpose in developing the characters during the film. The other is a purposely shaky camera. This produces a sort of fast paced mood to the film. It succeeds in that sense but this is constant and sometimes blocks the audience from concentrating during action scenes. Captain Phillips delves deep into modern life and extreme perils. As well as how First World societies compared with Third World societies. Captain Phillips easily earns *****/*****.