

The Owl

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Athlete of the Week

By Gina Leccese

Hudson High senior Cortlynn Jepsen was recognized in January as the News Channel 13 Athlete of the Week. The Athlete of the Week award gives recognition to talented athletes with a story. Jepsen was very surprised to get nominated and was also very nervous about being interviewed. She wasn't sure what to say at first, but her interviewer made it easy for her to tell her story. Her story was about an injury she received in her freshman year, which would've interfered with her basketball season. She had hurt her shoulder and needed surgery. However, she wouldn't give up and wanted to wait for basketball season to end before having surgery. Jepsen ended up getting the surgery the

morning after Sectionals and had to go to physical therapy for six months. Going to physical therapy made her realize that she wanted to major in physical therapy during college.

Jepsen was proud to be named Athlete of the Week. She stated that "Hudson has tons of talent that never gets recognized, so it felt good that they're finally recognizing us." Way to go, Cortlynn!



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New York City Field Trip in Science

By Ramisa Tasnim

Mrs. Flint's enriched Living Environment class, Mr. McDarby's AP Biology class, and the students in Envirothon and the Environmental Club, are all invited for a day full of fun in New York City! This trip is organized Mrs. Flint, and Mr. McDarby and is going to take place sometime in April. The first activity is the "Bodies Exhibition" in Time Square

where there is a gallery of bodies that have been donated to science. The exhibits display preserved internal human organs, organic systems, bodies staged in active poses, and fetuses in various stages of development. Students will stay there for approximately an hour and a half. Next for lunch, there will be countless restaurants to dine at! The Muse-

um Of Natural History is the next stop, where there will also be more than 27 exhibitions, a library, and the most exciting part- a planetarium! Mrs. Flint exclaimed how exciting and educational this trip is to students, and she also stated that the trip this year will be one of the best! Limited amount of seats are available so students are urged to get their deposits in.

Faculty Flashback: Mrs. Near

By Fahmida Choudhury & Farzana Akhter

Mrs. Near, who is part of the English department, is another former student of Hudson High. She graduated in 2001. In school her favorite subject was Social Studies, which was taught by Mr. Meister, her favorite Global teacher. She participated in the Yearbook Club and was the Yearbook Editor. She even tried out for soccer her freshmen year.

When comparing activities done in Hudson High both then and today, she said they only had a Senior Prom and no other small dances. When talking about her hobby, she was a reader and enjoyed many genres. When asked if she thought she would become an English teacher, she responded no. She had planned on being Social Studies teacher but in the end, decided to choose English because she did not like the history classes in college. Her love of reading was something that made her want to be an English teacher. When asking why she chose Hudson High, she said it was where she graduated and felt most familiar. There was an opening and Mrs. Near interviewed and received the position. She also student taught with the current ninth grade English teacher, Mrs. Cipollari, who was also her former 7th grade English teacher. Before receiving her current position, she went to college at S.U.N.Y. New Paltz, south of Kingston, and worked for Children Protection Services (C.P.S.). It is always nice to have teachers who attended the Hudson City School District share their stories with us!



Highly Anticipated Spring Break in Italy

By Gina Leccese

As some of you may already know, many students will be traveling to Italy for spring break with Signora Barletta, Hudson High's Italian teacher. Signora Barletta has been taking trips to Italy almost every year since she has been in the district. Her upcoming trip has been planned for the last two years and will be her twelfth trip to Italy. The trip this year will be her largest ever. Forty-seven students and parents will be going! To help everybody get acquainted before the trip, Signora Barletta invited those attending the trip to Italy to dinner. The dinner was held on February 9th at the Sons of Italy Lodge.

The trip itself is from April 11th-19th. It starts out in Boston where they will take a direct flight to Rome. Once there, Signora Barletta will take everyone to see Rome and other Italian cities such as Florence, Assisi, and Venice. Although Signora Barletta has very strict rules when traveling abroad with students, the trip promises to be very exciting. Students will be immersed in Italian culture, from the ancient ruins to modern culture. They will be able to speak the language, interacting with the natives wherever they go.

During an interview, Signora Barletta was able to offer some advice about what to bring. She suggested that students "pack very little, since less is more." She also advised against wearing flip-flops while sightseeing, since they will all be walking so much.

The New Editions to the Hudson High School Walls

By Jenna Gregory



Have you noticed anything different about the Hudson High School walls lately? Students and Ms. Simmons have been painting beautiful murals! The walls in the school are filled with murals that talented and dedicated students took the time to do. Two new murals have been painted recently. One of the new murals is by the cafeteria and another new mural is in the science wing.

The new mural by the cafeteria has been painted by Jordynn Grossman. The mural represents two hands that are opening up a path. Inside of the path it says "destination graduation". The next time you walk by the cafeteria, make sure to check out the beautiful new mural!

Another new mural that is being worked on is in the science wing. The mural is the Solar System. Many people have been working diligently on the Solar System mural. The students who have been helping out with the mural include: Shervanessa Baker, Ali Bartolotta, Nyla Dallas, Michaela Donovan, Michaela Gomula, Lealynn Heald, Lexi Peters, Fardush Sultana, Shanikwa Tomlinson, and Olivia Waldron. Ms. Simmons has also contributed with helping out with the mural. In an interview Michaela Gomula, who claims she has been painting for as she can remember, she stated "Ms Albino suggested that Lexi Peters and I do a mural in the science wing because the science wing is quite empty. We decided that we should do the solar system. I like science so I figured that I would do something for the science wing." The Solar System mural is the perfect touch for the science wing. Michaela also said "I paint the mural 9th period and after school. I will paint more murals in the future."

Murals are not easy and take a lot of hard work. Luckily, Hudson has talented students who are willing to paint them. Make sure to check out the two new murals when you walk past them. You will not be disappointed. Also, you can expect to find a picture of the finished product of the Solar System mural in the next edition of The Owl.

The Death of Philip Seymour Hoffman

By Danny Gelles



On February 2, Philip Seymour Hoffman was pronounced dead. Though this name may not sound familiar, his role in the upcoming movie Mockingjay is. Philip was the roast master of the Hunger Games in the 2nd movie of the Hunger Games series titled Catching Fire. The sequel is Mockingjay and it has not been released yet. With a week left of shooting, Philip collapsed dead in his apartment. The cause of death is most likely linked to the heroin discovered in his apartment. With around 50 envelopes containing heroin and 20 used syringes, the idea of overdose is highly probable. Although the shooting of Mockingjay was almost finished, a few scenes have yet to be completed. This unfortunate incident will not slow down the film as special effects will be used to finish his remaining scenes. This process has been done before in other movies such as Gladiator when a member of the cast also died before the end of shooting. Philip and his work shall be missed but the use of heavy drugs like heroin will not make him a role model in the public eye.

The Problem with Movie Trailers

By Danny Gelles

The movie trailer is arguably the most important technique to get customers to attend the so called great blockbuster of the year but are new trailers becoming too revealing? An average movie trailer today is 2 minutes and 30 seconds and with as many as 8 trailers a year, this could lead up to around 20 minutes of footage promoting the movie. This sometimes leads to excessive footage of the movie being shown in advance, discouraging people from seeing the movie. A highly used and dreaded approach is when trailers give away the entire story and reveal clear clues to plot twists. This, in my opinion, ruins the movie. There are so many examples, and each year it gets worse and worse. Shots of a dying character in a trailer don't build suspense, it just signals from the debut of that character that their death is forthcoming.

Another problem with new trailers is their originality. Rarely do you see a trailer that has aspects that have not been seen before. More commonly, you see elements that have been overplayed. Such elements are slow-motion, fast action shots, epic music with big booms and a long list of cliché lines such as GET OUTTA THERE, IT'S SHOWTIME, WELCOME TO_____, or my favorite YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DEFEAT_____. A good example of the repetitive format is a trailer compilation called *Eterna* by Vadzim Khudabets. Here movie quotes are taken from one movie trailer but scenes from other movie trailers are played, proving how interchangeable and similar the trailers are.

Although movie companies continue to repeat this format, movie theatres are fighting back. On behalf of the viewers, the National Association of Theatre Owners has given Hollywood guidelines on putting a cap on the trailer length down to two minutes. This will hopefully put trailers into a more respectable time frame that contains less spoilers.

