



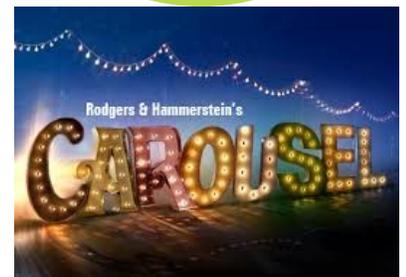
The Owl

January/February

2015

Hudson High School Presents: *Carousel*

By **Annaliese Tampasis**



Carousel is the second musical by the team of Richard Rodgers (music) and Oscar Hammerstein II (book and lyrics). The 1945 work was adapted from Ferenc Molnar's 1909 play *Liliom*, transplanting its Budapest setting to the Maine coastline. The story revolves around carousel barker Billy Bigelow, whose romance with millworker Julie Jordan comes at the price of both their jobs. He attempts a robbery to provide for Julie and her unborn child. After it goes wrong, he is given a chance to make things right. A secondary plot line deals with millworker Carrie Pipperidge and her romance with ambitious fisherman Enoch Snow. The show included the well-known songs "If I Love You", "June is Bustin' Out All Over" and "You'll Never Walk Alone."

During the *Carousel* rehearsals, everyone has been working hard and has devoted much of their time. On Saturdays from 9-1:30, there is a full cast rehearsal at the school's auditorium, where we practice scenes including: June is Bustin' Out All Over, the ballet and its entirety, the heavenly friend scene followed by the Starkeeper scene, and the scenes with Mr. Snow, Carrie, Julie, Louise, and Enoch Jr. On Mondays and Tuesdays, depending on the role, there are meetings after school from 3-4:30. Leads are supposed to be there and certain cast members, depending on what scenes are being practiced.

I have enjoyed working on this play, although it's been very time consuming. Rehearsals are always productive, and many show great focus and compassion for what they're doing. The play will be on March 27th, 28th, and 29th. We hope to see you there!

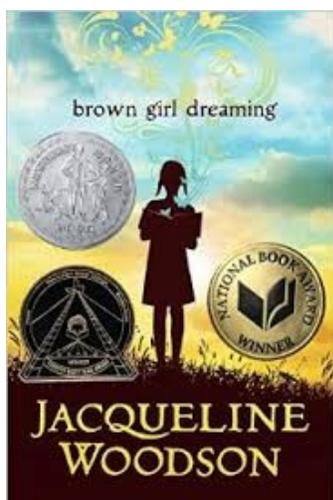
HCS D Book Club By Sharmin Akther

If you're looking to join a new club and read a spectacular new book, come to the library during lunch! The book club starts Friday, March 6th in the Hudson High School library. The book read will be *Brown Girl Dreaming*, by author Jacqueline Woodson. Jacqueline Woodson herself will be coming to talk to the club on May 1st. The book, *Brown Girl Dreaming*, is rated 4 out of 5 stars and is a Newbery Honor Book. She has won awards for many other

books as well. She won a Newbery Honor Medal for her book, *After Tupac and D Foster*. She received an ALA Best Book for Young Adults award for *Behind You*. Jacqueline has many more books which I think people will be very interested in after reading *Brown Girl Dreaming*.

The book, *Brown Girl Dreaming*, is a free verse memoir. It talks about Jacqueline's life when she was younger, struggling with the Civil Rights movement. The stories are described in poems. The story

is also Jacqueline's journey to figuring out that she wanted to have a voice, which she found through writing. Struggling with reading was an obstacle Jacqueline had when she was younger, but she dealt with it and figured out how to do what she loved, writing. The way the story is written will make the reader feel as if they are going through everything in Jacqueline's childhood. I personally have not read the book, but I look forward to it, along with meeting Jacqueline herself in the new book club.



Project: Cameron's Story **By Gina Leccese**

Over the past two months, the National Honor Society has been participating in a "book-raiser" to support Project: Cameron's Story. Project: Cameron's Story is a charity that puts donated children's books into the hands of parents with babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Since many of the babies in the NICU cannot be held or touched, the books provide a way for parents to bond with their babies through storytelling.

Project: Cameron's Story is an annual event that started in 2009 when Cameron Quartiers was born sixteen weeks early and his parents formed strong bonds with him by reading storybooks to him. They could tell that Cameron enjoyed it and it made the environment of the NICU less intimidating. Although Cameron did not survive, many other children now have the opportunity to bond with their parents in the same way that Cameron did.

Project: Cameron's Story has continued to grow and now thousands of babies in seven New York State hospitals have the chance to bond with their families in this way. At Hudson High, the National Honor Society was able to raise \$495 that will go towards the purchase of 135 books. Currently, 12,126 books have been collected for Cameron's Story in the Capital District.

Fun with Duct Tape **By Jenna Gregory**

On January 16th, the Hudson JV and Varsity basketball team played against Rensselaer. It wasn't just a normal game at Hudson High School. The Student Council had a special fundraiser. The fundraiser included Mr. LaCasse being duct taped to the wall outside of the gym!

Students bought a 1-yard length of duct tape for \$1 to tape on Mr. LaCasse. They could also buy a whole roll of duct tape for \$5. Mr. LaCasse stood on a stool against the wall while the students placed duct tape on him for the first quarter of the game. At the end of halftime, the stool was taken away and Mr. LaCasse was suspended for a few seconds. He was then cut down from the wall.

The fundraiser that the Student Council put together was very enjoyable. Many students helped out by buying the duct tape. Also, students and teachers found it entertaining to watch him being taped to the wall. The event even made the front of The Register Star Newspaper and the CBS News on Channel 6. All money raised goes to a scholarship fund for a senior, which is handed out on Senior Awards Night in June.



Chromebook Raffle **By Fahmida Choudhury & Farzana Akhter**

The Junior Class is sponsoring a raffle to give away a Chromebook. The winner will be announced on April 2nd and receive their prize then. The winner can use his/her Chromebook in school and have access to the school's Wi-Fi. Juniors will be selling the tickets for two dollars each or three tickets for five dollars. Anyone is eligible to win so support the Class of 2016 and win a brand new Chromebook!

Kindness Club Update By Ramisa Tasnim

As the new semester begins, the Kindness Club has taken on new activities to help the community. Currently, they started a new project in which they are sewing heart telemetry bags for those patients suffering from heart problems in Albany Medical Center's Cardiac Unit. Mrs. Foronda has been a patient at the Albany Med. Division of Cardiology and so this project is very dear to her heart. Bryan and Jared will also compete in the doubles tournament for the NYS Special Olympics on March 8th at Sportsman's Bowling Alley in Schenectady. Also Buddy (a certified therapy dog), who is an honorary member of the Kindness Club, has recently visited Hudson High. Make sure to say hi to him next time you visit! The basketball tournament on February 27th will have many participants and the Kindness Club will be selling their famous cotton candy! Be sure to visit the Kindness Club and pick up some cotton candy. It is a great group for us to support!



Y.E.S. Program By Brianna Tsitsera

The Youth Employment Service Program is available for students age fourteen and older to participate in. Here students learn the basics and acquire new skills to prepare them for the work force. Tara McSherry-Wolfe runs the school's program and I had the chance to interview her, along with two participants and a volunteer teacher. According to Tara, the YES Program is designed to help young adults learn the skills necessary to be awesome employees. She thinks this program is one of the most creative and life changing classes that is offered for students. I asked her if she considered herself a learner in the program. Her answer was "Yes and that is the most thought-provoking question I've had. It has made me a better employee and a more thoughtful social worker." The goals involved in this class are to maintain students' interest in finishing their education and to increase students' understanding of a world beyond high school. Tara wishes that this was offered to her when she was in high school and took on this responsibility because she loves to watch each student grow and mature as they participate in the program, along with being grateful for the relationships it allows her to create with students. She wanted to thank the supportive administrator and volunteers for taking their own time to be a part of this program.

Two students in this program are a freshman, Kayleigh, and a senior, Bryan, who were asked a few questions. Since Bryan is graduating this year and will be going out into the work force, he feels more confident speaking to people in public. Kayleigh was asked if she thinks this will help her throughout the next couple of years with presenting and she said absolutely. Both students feel that the class is a great opportunity and is helpful for the work field and with school activities. Kayleigh has noticed a change in her confidence when speaking to peers and elders.

One of the teacher volunteers is Mr. McDonald, who has volunteered since it first started seven years ago. He said his goal was to see the class grow and see more students getting credit. He feels that it gives children real life experiences that they would not get otherwise. Like Tara, Mr. McDonald wishes the YES program was available when he was in high school. He started working at age sixteen. He describes it by saying "It's a program where we mentor the young adults and teach them what to expect in a work environment. We hopefully give them skills on getting a job and keeping it. We create a relationship with the community where young adults go into the workforce and use those skills." Mr. McDonald mentioned that his family has been involved in the program since both of his sons participated and his wife is a mentor. He feels that they can relate to students, who call the mentors by their first names. They learn many skills that they will use in the future for all sorts of work environments.

Winter Sports Update By Richard Dellavechia

As the winter sports season winds down, it is important to keep an eye out on our teams as they approach Sectionals. As of February 5th, Boys Varsity Basketball is enjoying an 11-4 overall record and an 11-1 record in the Patroon Conference. They have a huge amount of momentum heading towards Sectionals. The team has been dominating the competition inside the Patroon Conference. They should have a good chance to make a deep postseason run. Varsity Girls Basketball is 10-5 overall and looking good for postseason play as well. They almost took down undefeated Greenville on February 3rd. Boys Varsity Volleyball is 7-7 overall and hoping to make noise in Sectionals. The seniors want to avenge last year's early exit in postseason play with a deep run. Varsity Bowling finished its season 6-6 and has Sectionals Friday, February 6th at Boulevard Bowl in Schenectady. They are traveling to unfamiliar territory looking to have success. Stay tuned for how each team fared in Sectional play.



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Review for *The Wave* By Todd Strasser

By Saima Hannan

Most people really enjoy Todd Strasser’s work. One of his most popular novels written for teens is called *The Wave*. *The Wave* is about a classroom activity that went too far. A high school social studies teacher named Mr. Ross decided to try an experiment to show his students how the Nazis took control of innocent lives. He created and named the experiment, “The Wave”. This book was based on an actual event that took place in California in 1969, making it even more interesting. Personally, I think this book had it all and I think any type of reader will enjoy it. There was a lot of suspense and questioning as to what was going to happen in the end. I really loved this book and would definitely recommend it. *The Wave* is a short book and can be considered a “quick read” and the reader will definitely be hooked from the beginning all the way up to the end. Anyone who really loves historical fiction mixed with a bit of nonfiction will really enjoy this book!

**American Sniper
By Danny Gelles**

American Sniper features ex-Navy Seal, Chris Kyle. Chris Kyle had 160 confirmed sniper kills. He was a member of Seal Team 3, and *American Sniper* is Chris Kyle’s autobiography. The movie is based on the book which was published in 2012. The book is a firsthand account of Chris Kyle’s multiple tours in Iraq and the series of conflicts that earned him the status of the most lethal sniper in U.S. history (beating out the previous record held by Adelbert Waldron with 109 confirmed kills.)

Clint Eastwood (the director) did an excellent job of adapting the book into a movie as well as pacing the action in the film. With the high volume of carnage Chris saw and expressed in his book, it would be easy for the majority of the movie to be Chris switching from sniper nest to sniper nest with a kill counter in the bottom right corner. However, the movie didn’t turn out that way. The movie is split into chronicles. It starts with his childhood, young adulthood, and then enlistment. Once he is deployed for his first tour in Iraq, the movie shifts toward a pattern of carnage from the frontlines to the civilian life between each of his four tours. This radical shift is not often expressed in movies but helps illustrate the struggle for Chris and other veterans to adjusting to life back home, only to be thrust back into the battlefield of Iraq months later. *American Sniper* also does justice to portraying Chris and the relationship he shared with his family amidst the conflict he was engulfed in during the Iraq war (as well as the thousands of other military families who shared the same circumstances).

American Sniper is not just an account of the man who was the most lethal sniper in the U.S. military but rather an account of a soldier, who like many others, sought to protect his nation and served in the armed forces to carry out such a task. Yet Chris and so many others returned crippled with physical scars or wounded by survivors’ guilt. *American Sniper* succeeds greatly in bridging the gap between cinema and reality.

This vividness expressed by *American Sniper* makes it almost surreal as to how realistic the movie is in comparison to real life. Movies like *American Sniper* don’t come often, but they serve a purpose. They act as a marker of transition to the next generation. The generation of men and women fought in the early stages of the War on Terror are growing older and are giving way to the younger generation. The generation which is no longer shocked by countless episodes of terrorism but accepts its existence as they cannot remember the time before 9/11 and the beginning of the War on Terror.