

The Owl



September/
October 2015

Homecoming Game By Fahmida Choudhury

On Friday evening, September 18th, the Homecoming Game was held at the Hudson Intermediate School. The Hudson Bluehawks went up against Lansingburgh. In the beginning of the first half, Hudson was in the lead. Things took a turn during the second half of the game. We lost but played hard.

The court was held during half time. The winners of the Duke and Duchess of the court were Derek DeLamater and Caitlin Cowan, The Prince and Princess were Donovan Peck and Shervanessa Baker, and lastly the King and Queen were Shamar Daniels and Lauren Bowes. A good time was had by all.



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Homecoming Dance By Jenna Gregory

Monday, September 14th started homecoming week at the Hudson High School. On Saturday evening, September 19th, there was a homecoming dance held in the cafeteria. All grades were able to attend. Both girls and

boys were dressed up. Many pictures were taken and memories were made. The DJ played great music in which many students danced to. Even the senior class advisors, Mrs. Nowak and Mrs. Keyser, were up on

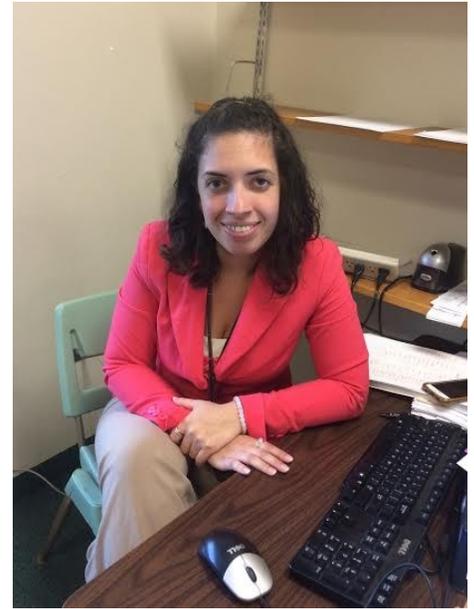
the dance floor. There were flashing lights which made the dance that much cooler. Towards the end, the court was announced. It was definitely a night to remember. I highly recommend everybody attending the homecoming dance next year in 2016.



The Explorers' Program by Ramisa Tasnim

The Explorers' Program is an activity that high school students, especially juniors and seniors, are encouraged to attend. The club is in partnership with The Van Buren House and the National Parks Service. Students will be able to join in discussion groups and activities about various social, historical, and political topics. The meetings are once every month. The most exciting aspect about this program is that those students who participate in the club will be able to go on field trips, expense free! Last year, several students were able to enjoy a trip to Boston in which they visited several historical places and even did some environmental

cleaning. This year hopefully even more trips will be planned. Also, if you are a part of this club, you have a chance of being selected for a work position over the summer as a tour guide and helper. Two Hudson High students were able to actually work at the Martin Van Buren house just last summer. If anyone is interested or wants more details about the program, make sure to contact Mrs. Naramore for extra information.



Spanish Teacher Interview by Farzana Akter

This year, Hudson High School has a new Spanish teacher. Mrs. Rodriguez comes from a Spanish speaking family background. Her mother is from the Dominican Republic while her father is Venezuelan. She went to college in Newburgh to major in mathematics. Although she did not want to be a teacher at first, she felt that she was led to this path and believes this is what she is meant to do. She believes that children should be introduced to the Spanish culture as well as the language to better understand the origin of the language. She believes that second languages should be taught at a much

younger age. This allows the child to learn the language much faster. She also believes that repetition comes in handy when trying to learn a language. The more you are surrounded by the language, the better you will become at speaking that particular language.

When asked what a teacher means to her, she replied "To sort of be a counselor, someone who is understanding, a second parent, trying their best to get lessons across and most of all, being patient." She thinks that learning a new language opens up a part of your brain and learning the proper grammar

language allows you to become better in your own language. She feels that the most difficult obstacle about being a new teacher is understanding the unwanted behavior, but as time passes, you learn to deal with the behavior and manage it. When asked what she likes to do outside of school, she replied by talking about how her sister is a singer who is on tour and is in the process of getting her American album out and sometimes she has also performs as her back up on stage. She also loves to paint and feels like art is a good way to relax.

Boys' Soccer by Ahsraful Shamrat

The Boys' JV Soccer team has had an astonishing season so far. The team has only lost twice and tied once in a total of 7 games. The team captain is Monsur Choudhury and the co-captain is Shakib Rahman. Monsur even won athlete of the week for week 4. During that week he scored an astounding 10 goals in 2 games. The goalkeeper is Ahsraful Shamrat. The defense consists of Jahn Preusser, Sifath Khan, Luis

Melendez, and Shimran Alam. The midfield players are Tayjul Tonmoy, Suman Humagain, and Abdula Badon. The offense includes Monsur Choudhury, Jahid Hasan, and Jaheim DaCosta. The substitutes are Monish Patel and Siddique Ahmed. The coach of the team is Mr. Hoffman. The season is not over yet and the team strives to make more goals and gain more wins.



High School Clubs for 2015-16

By Ummeh Era

Although plenty students at Hudson High are aware of what clubs are available,

the new freshman have no clue, which is reasonable due to the fact that it is their first year. Freshmen should know that the more extracurricular activities you join, the better, because colleges do not just look at grades. In this article you will be able to get a sense on which clubs are available now.

Students Against Destructive Decisions (also known as S.A.D.D.) is one of the clubs offered. The mission of S.A.D.D. is to help people avoid the dangers of drinking and driving. Students who decide to join will have fundraisers. Whoever is interested joining this club, visit Ms. Zincio, the club advisor and the health teacher. Environmental Club allows students to join anytime they wish. In Environmental Club students will do fundraising as well. You may even brainstorm ideas for healthy snacks to sell, and be able to help out with recycling. If you are planning on joining be sure to go to Mr. McDarby, club advisor and science teacher. Are you competitive, and enjoy science? Then Envirothon is for you. The NYS Envirothon is a hands-on environmental education competition where a team

of five high school students work together in the hopes of winning scholarships and awards. Students must be committed to stay for every club meeting that is announced. The teams compete in five different environmental categories (i.e., soils/land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, and wildlife) and a current environmental issue. If you have hopes of joining, go to Mr. McDarby, club advisor and science teacher.

Enjoy painting for fun? Well then come on down to Art Club on Tuesdays at lunch and afterschool. Students can do whatever art project they wish to do, even murals for the school! Art fanatics are advised to go to Ms. Albino's room, the art teacher, and the club advisor as well. Mock Trial is an act or imitation trial. Students participate in rehearsed trials to learn about the legal system in a competitive manner. Interscholastic mock trials take place on all levels including primary school, middle school, high school, college, and law school. If you like what you're reading about Mock Trial, be sure to visit Mrs. Naramore, the club advisor and social studies teacher. Lastly, join The Owl! Students will write about events that go on in the school. Brainstorm ideas, write an article

about it, take pictures, and see the school newspaper online, for people all around the world to view. Doesn't that sound awesome? If you find that this club is suitable for you, visit Ms Cipolari and Ms. Near, the club advisors and English teachers. Even though these are just a few clubs that are available right now, there are more that are coming. Students, there are a wide selection of clubs that are ready for you to join, so you shouldn't have much trouble finding an extracurricular activity that you desire. If any clubs want more publicity on their activities, then please see an Owl member and we will write an article about it.



Girls' Varsity Tennis

by Most Islam

The girl's tennis season started on August 17th, 2015 with nine girls. The first five singles players in order are: Jennifer Rosete, Olivia Waldron, Fahmida Choudhury, Kristen O'Connell, and Farzana Akther. The first doubles players are Saima Hannan and myself, Most Islam. The second doubles players are Alicia Porreca and Sophie Filli, plus we have our expedition player, Autumn Kudlack.

The season record has 4 wins, 1 tie, and 7 losses. According to Coach Qua, each girl was coachable and had great potential. As we moved later into the season, we all improved tremendously. Every match played had been close and each loss was by a narrow margin. As the season wraps up, we are looking forward to the Patroon Championships, the team sectionals and the individual sectionals in Schenectady on the 19th

of October.

The girls had the best season with Coach Qua. Sadly, the season is ending with a last game on October 19th. Between now and October 19th, we might schedule a makeup game. Also, more than half of the players are seniors. That means Coach Qua is looking for anyone who is interested to join the team for next year.

Standardized Tests

Danny Gelles

The SAT. The ACT. I'm sure you've all heard of them, but to the average Hudson student it is more a concept than a reality. For the Hudson High students who want to pursue a college degree, they may not be aware of the glass ceiling above them. This artificial ceiling is not based on their abilities, but rather their compliance to big standardized tests such as the SAT and ACT.

These exams are not procured by the colleges themselves; instead, they are produced by private companies that believe your aptitude in career readiness can be assessed by a four hour test. The part that is most disturbing is that most colleges equate these tests in value to your four years in high school. Imagine this, you have worked hard throughout all of high school, participated in extracurriculars, and now an admissions officer is looking at your application. But here's the catch, you did poorly on those standardized tests. Well here is the cold hard truth: your application is then promptly thrown in the trash. This is the sad reality of many hard working students who are applying not to just highly selective schools, but SUNY's as well.

The companies behind the exams claim that the SAT and ACT are accurate predictors of college performance. Not only is this a gross overstatement, but the tests are not fair either. It doesn't come as a surprise that those who come from wealthy school districts where there is an abundance of private tutors and funds to afford them, have the highest test scores. So the question here is, how can standardized tests be an effective predictor of college performance if it puts those from a less funded background at a disadvantage? Well the answer is simple, they are not good predictors of college performance. In fact, College Board (SAT) states that it only predicts up to your first year GPA in college. After that the correlation between your test score and GPA is nonexistent.

So why are standardized test scores scrutinized by college admissions? The main reason, the sheer number of applications received by colleges. This issue is due to many reasons such as the Common App's ability to send out applications in mass, or the constant media attention toward the dangers of not obtaining a college degree. This trend is not slowing, but growing. This means that yes, your life may very well be determined by a test score. However there is hope. The number of test optional schools is growing. As of 2015, the number and variety of test optional schools has exceeded well over 100 universities, as well as 30 new test optional schools in the last year. This list includes public schools such as SUNY Potsdam, and large private institutions such as George Washington University. So, if George Washington University can manage over 20,000 applicants per year, then there is no excuse for other colleges to follow suit.

With the large shift to test-optional schools, it means we are in the transitional period. So for now, standardized tests still hold weight for the majority of the nation's higher learning institutions. For that reason change needs to be made at Hudson High. There needs to be more counseling and college preparation seminars given at an earlier stage, so students can assess their situation and take the necessary steps to prepare for whatever career direction they wish to follow. Many of the students at Hudson High have the prospective to be the first of their family to attend college. With little access to services in the surrounding area, it is up to the school to provide information and counseling to help these students achieve their highest potential.