



# The Owl

September/October  
2014

## The Kindness Club By Ramisa Tasnim

It's only been a couple of months into the school year and the Kindness Club has big plans already! They traveled to Rome, New York to participate in the Bocce Special Olympics on October 18th. The participants won 2 gold and 4 silver medals!

The Sons and Daughters of Italy have sponsored the Kindness Club. The Kindness Club is still holding their Kindness Closet and even have their own Kindness Cotton Candy Company, which is perfect for any event. Some campus activities that the students participate in are: the morning announcements, the kindness school store and class attendance. Alina Parvin, a member of the Kindness Club, also came up with a great idea to donate all the items that students don't eat for lunch to an organization that supplies food to those who need it. The Kindness Club has lots in store for the year. Please keep reading *The Owl* for further goodness that they do!



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## What Is It Like To Be A Freshman? By Saima Hannan

Everyone remember their first year in high school. Everyone surely remembers being a "freshman". My first year in high school is definitely going to be one to remember! I'm sure everyone can agree that being a freshman is not as easy as we thought. First of all, there is a lot more homework than we are used to. There are also a lot more tests and quizzes, especially if you are someone who has all advanced classes. Personally, I don't think the material is necessarily difficult; you just have to be really focused. All of the teachers are really helpful and seem to be willing to do anything just to make sure we understand. The Junior High is structured very similarly and I'm thankful that we were somewhat prepared for what was to come. I think that there is a lot of pressure because of managing sports and homework and studying for tests and quizzes, but I think we all found a way to adjust all of that into our schedules. If you are on a sports' team, you obviously get home later than someone who is not, so time management is also something everyone is trying to get used to. High school is one of the biggest transitions in our lives, and I think most of us have adjusted fairly quickly!

# Envirothon

## By Brianna Tsitsera

Envirothon is an extracurricular activity, which is held after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:45 to 4:00. The group will be competing in Fishkill, New York on April 15, 2015 for regionals. We are preparing for this already. Mr. McDarby facilitates the group in S104 and all are welcomed to join. The program is great for students who hold an interest in wildlife, forestry, soils, and aquatics. In the past five years, the Hudson High School team has gone to states three times. Envirothon looks great on college applications and it's also a great way to make new friends.

Jean Busta, who is in her second year, explained "it's a lot of fun and a great time to hang out. It's work but it pays off. I regret not doing it during my entire high school career."

Patricia VanValkenburgh gave us her perspective on this as well.

"We get to learn stuff about nature and it's good to know what's around you. It's good to have the competition and it's very fun."

The future goals of Envirothon are to beat our rivals, Chatham, win the regionals, and go to states. Before this can be done, six stations need to be completed. These include: wildlife, forestry, soils, aquatics, the current issue, and the oral presentation for the yearly issue. Each year there is different issue that the teams must solve and present. This year's is based on urban forestry. In order to help us prepare for the competition, Envirothon members study and quiz each other. Sometimes these study sessions take place in the Albany Museum, parks, and nature preserves. Please wish the club luck on their efforts!



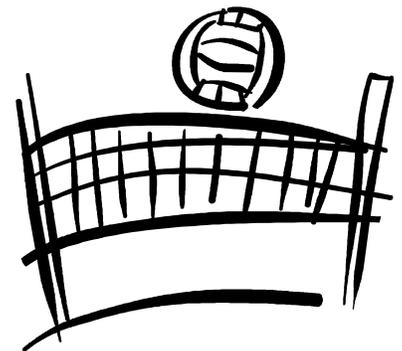
## Is The Fear Of Injury Affecting Sports' Numbers?

### By Richard Dellavechia

This question has been raised across the country: Are kids and parents worried about the violence in sports? At the surface, the answer to this is no. Many parents come and support their kids at sporting events and the school as a body supports its teams well. So the question is, why are numbers down? Over the years the number of people who try out for sports has declined greatly, to the point where teams barely had enough people trying out to field a squad. Some people say that time is the

issue with sports. "With work and homework, I just don't have time to play a sport", one student said. Another issue that surfaced was the fact that a prior sport's experience stopped someone from playing. "When I played baseball when I was little, I didn't think I was good enough. That's why I never tried out for the school" another student said. Another issue that frequently came up was the injury fear. Injuries in sports, such as football, have kept students from signing up. "I

think kids aren't signing up because of all the concussion stuff" one player said. "All the information that has come out is steering kids and parents away from the sport". In the end, many things are keeping kids from signing up for sports. If you can connect to one of these issues above, speak to someone who was previously on the team that you are interested in trying out for. They will give you an honest opinion. Coaches want as many people to try out for their teams as possible, so don't be shy!



## **Ebola Scare in the United States** **By Danny Gelles**

As of October 15, 2014 multiple cases of Ebola have surfaced in the U.S. This may alarm many but, it shouldn't. The virus surfaced within the last year in Guinea and spread to other West African nations such as Liberia and Sierra Leone. The death toll has recently surpassed 4,000 and in some cases fatality rates can go up to 90%. These statistics might look frightening but, then again, one has to compare the conditions in West Africa to the United States.

West Africa currently is being ravaged by the virus. Liberia is currently a hotspot for Ebola as Monrovia its capital city has a massive amount of Ebola cases each day. The idea of America sinking into the same situation is contrary to reason. Over social media there are many ridiculous claims to Ebola. Whether they claim that Ebola is causing people to rise from the dead or that the disease was planted by the illuminati, they have no credibility at all one can only hope that no one believes them. The truth of the matter is that West

Africa is impoverished and does not have the proper training or equipment to deal with the outbreak. Years of civil war in Liberia did not help the situation as in some situations people have feared the government and even health care workers, making the situation worse. In West Africa health workers struggle to obtain basic equipment like latex gloves or facilities to house the infected. Reports of the infected being turned away as medical facilities are filled leaves the infected walking the streets infecting more and more people. America however is wealthy nation with abundant resources to deal with this outbreak. The United States government has been working with the CDC (center for disease control) which has trained medical teams that can quarantine the infected person and keep watch over all of those in recent contact with the infected individual.

However in the recent case of Thomas Eric Duncan, there is some room-

for legitimate concern. Duncan contracted the Ebola virus while in West Africa and flew to the United States without symptoms. As his symptoms became apparent he sought medical help but, was turned away even though he informed a nurse he had recently been in West Africa. Duncan has since then died of the virus. In this instance there was a serious case of misjudgment by a health care worker. This incident has made hospitals hyperaware of the Ebola virus and many safeguards are being put into place. Even if a healthcare worker gets infected they are being heavily monitored and the outbreak should stop there if they are compliant with safety protocol. Duncan's case has prompted hospitals nationwide to implement protocols for virus and further training for healthcare professionals. Airports now can, and have called in medical teams to monitor sick passengers before letting them into the U.S. These precautions have limited the spread of Ebola in the United States and will hopefully stop future cases from entering U.S. again.

## **Hudson High Welcomes New Teachers** **By Gina Leccese**

Four new teachers are joining the Hudson High staff this year. Ms. Joy, who teaches ESL, replaces Mrs. Paus, the former ESL teacher who retired last year. Mr. Mazzone, Mrs. Lockman, and Ms. Casazza are all new members to the Special Education Department. We all look forward to what they will bring to Hudson High.

## **An Interview with Mrs. Novine** **By Farzana Akhter**

Mrs. Novine is the new Hudson High School counselor. She went to Springfield College as an undergrad and graduated from the college of St. Rose. Mrs. Novine is also a very good poker player and considers herself competitive. She decided to become a counselor after taking part in a mentoring program. She believes counselor should advocate students to do their best and do whatever to make the student successful in school and out. She says counselors are the "go between" who try to collect information from teachers and parents to help students achieve their goals. When I asked her what characteristics are

needed to be a counselor, she stated that a sense of humor and patience are quite needed. When I asked her what her school counseling and educational philosophies were, she answered: being upfront, encouraging, and knowing that everyone's journey is different. She considers diversity a strength in Hudson High. Her advice to all students is: don't give up and persevere towards your goals because hard work always pays off!



# Homecoming 2014



## **Varsity Club**

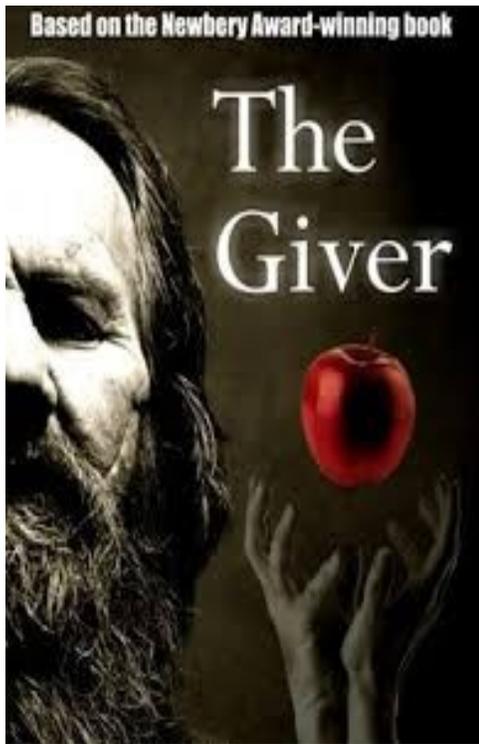
### **By Gina Leccese**

One of the many clubs that you can join at Hudson High School is the Varsity Club. Run by Mrs. Flint, the Varsity Club handles the blood drives and last year started a volleyball tournament to help raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The Varsity Club is looking into doing other activities as well this year, such as participating in charity runs and visiting hospital patients. Members will be running the concession stand during the Harlem Wizards game on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

In order to become a member of the Varsity Club, you need a Varsity letter and have to fill out a membership application. Meetings are typically on Fridays, during lunch.

Aside from being more selective, the Varsity Club is different from other clubs that Hudson High offers. It gives student athletes the chance to get involved in other activities besides sports. It's also a way for athletes to get together to do something good for their school and their community.





## **Secret Saturdays Review**

**By Devon Sweatt**

The Secret Saturdays, by Torrey Maldonado, is a novel about two friends, Justin and Sean. They grow up in a tough neighborhood in the same apartment complex and were the closest friends each other had. That is until Sean starts acting like a bully, hanging with a bad crowd, and letting his grades slip. Justin also sees him leave the complex late every night. When Justin learns the truth, he wants to help his friend before he goes too far. But what if confronting him means the end of their friendship? It was a great story about a friend's loyalty and a tough choice he must make to save him from himself. It shows how a problem can cause people to change because they want to keep it secret at all costs. The reader could also relate to the situation of making a hard decision. I was a little lost at the beginning of the novel but caught up with what was going on quickly. This was a very enjoyable novel to read and I highly recommend it!

## **The Giver: The Movie By Jenna Gregory**

On August 15, the movie *The Giver* was released. The movie is based on the novel The Giver, written by Lois Lowry. The movie definitely holds your attention. Both the novel and movie have a very similar plot. Although the plot is similar, some of the details are different.

*The Giver* is about a community in which there are no different races or feelings. The community is under strict rules that nobody breaks and each citizen has a specific role. The community is under those circumstances to protect the people. Before, the community could experience pain and bad experiences. Now the only person that can is the receiver of memory. The receiver of memory receives memories of all kinds from the Giver. A boy by the name of Jonas is given the position of memory receiver. With his position, he is allowed to bend the rules a little bit. He can lie, ask any question he wants, and cannot take medication. He learns that a girl, who had the position before him, did

not work out. Jonas also learns a lot more. He discovers that there is so much more to life than what everybody else sees every day. He knows what it is like to feel and he tries to give to memories to his friend Fiona. He wants to teach her how to feel too. Jonas tries to share memories to Gabe as well, who is a baby that his father brought home. Gabe is not that strong and if he doesn't become stronger, he will be released from the community. Jonas, knowing all that he knows, wants everybody to experience life the way that he now knows. He goes to a place called Elsewhere, which is life beyond the community, to do so.

The movie *The Giver* has the same storyline as the novel does but some details are a little different. For example, in the novel, Jonas is an 11 year old boy, but in the movie he is slightly older. Another difference is in the novel; Asher was given the position of a recreation leader. In the movie, Asher is given a larger role. He is given the position of handling drones

(aircraft). Asher has an important role towards the end of the movie that involves Jonas' plan of escaping the community. The location of Jonas' training is different as well. In the movie, Jonas' training for receiver of memory is done in a place at the end of a long trail, completely isolated from the community. His training is done in a closed area in the Annex in the House of Old in the novel. The biggest difference between the novel and movie is the ending. In the novel, Jonas gets to Elsewhere but the readers have no idea what happens after that. The ending of the novel is a complete cliff hanger. In the movie, there is a surprise ending, something you would not expect to happen. You also find out what happens to Jonas after he reaches Elsewhere. Those details are for you to find out when you watch the movie!

*The Giver* was overall a great movie. If you haven't read the novel, make sure to read it sometime. Also, don't forget to watch the movie once it comes out on DVD.