

# The Owl



September/  
October 2016

## Freshman Orientation 2016

By Mashuda Sultana

On Tuesday, August 30th, Hudson High School held its Freshman Orientation. It was mainly centered on students and parents meeting the teachers, and understanding the school policies and rules. They also gave students their schedules and locker combinations. They separated the parents and students into two rooms. The students went to the gym and the P.E. teachers introduced some new games. The students played a game in a big circle where they shook hands and introduced themselves to one another. The teachers gave the students an option to jump rope and explained that in high school, gym class is not the same as jr. high school gym class. After that, the students partnered up with other students. They came up with three obstacles and three goals to start their Freshman year. All of the teachers discussed the importance of high school with the parents.

A tip that was given was that students should never share their locker combinations with anyone, as it is personal information. They also told students that they should not drink anything that has caffeine in it. Students were told that they can't use their cellphones in class, but they can use them during lunchtime and in the halls. However, some study hall teachers allow students to use cellphones in their classes.

After that, the parents and students went to the cafeteria. There were a lot of tables. There was a table for criminal justice, school supplies, and other important clubs. Then, the students got their schedules and went to meet their teachers. At 8:00, the students had ice cream. This event helped students and parents understand the school policies and rules and the students had a wonderful opportunity to meet their teachers.



## Hudson's Varsity Team: Unstoppable

By Saima Hannan

Our Varsity Football team is in the semifinals for sectionals! They had an amazing regular season ending with 7 solid victories and 0 losses-it doesn't get better than that. Last Friday, October

21, they had their last successful win against Johnstown, with a score of 42-0. The next sectional semifinals game is on Friday, October 28th, at home at the Barrett Field, at 7 pm against Schuylerville.

All admission is \$6, including students and senior citizens. Come show your support!



## 2016 Presidential Election

### By Saima Hannan

The 2016 Presidential Election is eerily sneaking up on the citizens of the US. This year's election seems to have stirred up a lot of different opinions and debates amongst students and adults. Hudson High School, like the rest of the country, seems to have many mixed reactions. Are you on Hillary Clinton's side, or are you rooting for Donald Trump?

"I agree with a lot of the things Donald Trump says he will fight for," says one student.

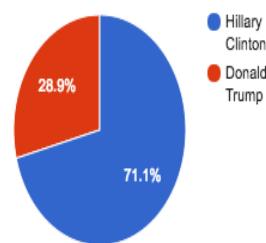
Another adds,

"I feel like he will keep us safe." However, others disagree.

"Hillary Clinton is more fit to be President than Trump is." Another student agrees and says, "She is much more professional than Donald Trump." If Hillary Clinton does win the 2016 election, she will be the first female President of America, so one of the students decided to address this,

"It's about time America has a female President, so many other countries have had them." Some students chose to take a side, while

others did not want to answer or simply do not agree with any of the candidates. While reactions may be mixed, it is the vote that counts. As for results, we will have to wait to find out who will win. In the meantime, check out who Hudson High thinks should win the 2016 Presidential Election:



## Hudson High School Clubs

### By Most Islam

Welcome back everyone to a fresh year with a fresh start! As many of you already know, there are many clubs in our school that could interest you. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors already know the drill, but for our freshman, it is something new. Joining a club is a great way to make friends, develop leadership skills and boost your resumé. Many colleges look to see that students are in-

volved outside of the classroom, which shows that they are well-rounded. The clubs available in our school are: Art Club, Environmental Club, Envirothon, SADD, Scrub Club, Varsity Club, Mock Trial, Robotics, Game Club, and obviously, *The Owl* Newspaper. The Art Club is administered by Ms. Albino, Environmental Club and Envirothon are both run by

Mr. McDarby, SADD and Scrub Club by Ms. Zincio, and Varsity Club is administered by Mrs. Flint. Robotics is run by Mr. Buhler, Mock Trial by Mrs. Naromore, Game Club is run by Mr. Renner, and *The Owl* is administered by Ms. Cipollari and Mrs. Near. I encourage every student to join these fun after school activities. It's a great way to get involved.

## PAES Labs

### By Ahsraful Shamrat

Hudson High School is conducting the Practical Assessment Exploration System (PAES) labs. This is a set of tasks for students who take Special Education courses. These labs help them with work and life skills and is mostly used for jobs in the real world. It breaks barriers and ad-

vances students closer to successful living. Students develop training and skills that can be used for independent living and finding jobs. The PAES labs is conducted by Ms. Foronda and Mr. McDonald. The PAES labs prepare students with real world applications and displays accurate stu-

dent performance and student potential for the future. It contains the necessary routines for everyday life along with extra material. The PAES labs are an important step in achieving academic and lifelong success.

## The College Process with Mrs. Wheeler

### By Clair Bazar and Cecille Ruiz

Have you ever sat at home or in school wondering how you were going to get to college? How you were going to pay for it? What the Common App is? What's my story for the essay? Do I even have a chance of going to a four year school? What do I want? Is there anyone to help me with this, or am I on my own? Well, these are all some pretty interesting questions. We, as seniors of the class of 2017, are here to tell you that, yes, there is someone who can help you. She is a kind, easy-going, understanding person. Her name is Mrs. Wheeler. You don't have to be alone in the college process, as it sure can be a scary process.

Mrs. Wheeler's room is Room 4 and her door is always open, as long as it's after 7th period. Going in there for the first time can be a little overwhelming, but after a couple of minutes, you start feeling more comfortable, almost like you're hanging out with a bunch of friends. Going to Mrs. Wheeler's room is a great opportunity to take advantage of because she really helps you find a topic to write about if you're lost. When Cecille went there, she thought she knew what her college essay was going to be about; then she realized it needed some work. She showed it to Mrs. Wheeler, who helped her and now she's on her way to writing a great essay worth thousands of dollars (in scholarship money). If you have a great story to tell, then you already know Mrs. Wheeler can help you make sure that your essay gets to the point where it's not missing crucial details and she can make sure that your essay stands out from the rest. For example, Clair had great words written on her paper, but she was missing something and she knew it, so she brought it in to Mrs. Wheeler, who is currently helping her finesse her masterpiece.

Mrs. Wheeler not only helps you write an amazing essay, she also helps you become more vulnerable. I know you're probably thinking, 'Why would I want to be vulnerable?' Well, I know how you feel. Being vulnerable is key to writing an essay that makes admission officers feel something, whether it's a laugh, a tear, or happiness for you, and that is what's going to distinguish you from another candidate who has done the same things as you have. Now, I could go on, but I really think it's better if you hear it from Mrs. Wheeler than from reading this article. I hope to see you there!

## College Fair at Hudson High

### By Clair Bazar and Cecille Ruiz

The College Fair at Hudson High was held on October 18th, 2016. The College Fair had a good amount of colleges. Among those present were Cobleskill, SUNY New Paltz, SUNY Oneonta, Sacred Heart University, SUNY Oswego, SUNY Adirondack, The College at Brockport, University at Buffalo, SUNY Albany, Morrisville State College, Mohawk Valley Community College, Plymouth State University, Schenectady County Community College, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, The Sage Colleges, Fulton-Montgomery Community College, and Suny Potsdam. There were some more colleges too. The people that came from these colleges were college representatives. Out on their panels, students were immediately able to see a poster or two of the majors/minors that they offer. On the table, there were pamphlets of the colleges "at a glance," sheets that had the open house dates and times, and more detailed descriptions of each college. The administrators were there to assist with any questions that students had.

Standing face to face with a representative allowed students to ask questions that were unique to their interests because they had the knowledge of the colleges. When arriving at the panel, the reps and students introduced themselves and asked some questions about interests and major/minors. After having a conversation with the reps, they handed out the flyers and pamphlets that consisted of information about the colleges. Also, I want you to know that it's okay if you "accidentally" forgot to return their pens because it happens all the time.

College fairs are not only for seniors. It's never too late or too early to start looking at colleges. It's better if you start earlier because it saves a lot of time. You should also start your personal statement essay as soon as you know what you want to write about. You can also make your FSA ID for the FAFSA as early as 14 years old. You should definitely be looking at colleges now that you are in high school, though. This gives you the time to narrow down a list, see what the requirements are, and what you will need when the time comes to apply.

## Keeping You Up To Beat: Is the Band's Future on the Line?

By Annaliese Tampasis

**A new addition-** Dion Placencia has been a remarkable addition to our music program. As an assistant band director, he has already made a huge impact. Placencia has worked with several different high schools including: Arlington High School, Mononahsen Senior High School, and the Kingston High School, directing their Marching competitions. He has 13 years of experience as a marching instructor and band teacher. His drive, his eagerness for success, and his determina-

tion has led to an increased interest in the jazz ensemble, as well as regular band. The Hudson High School band has well over 80 students who are a blend of various tremendous talents. As the largest group the school has ever had, they are determined to increase progress with each and every practice. When Mr. Placencia was asked about what his intentions were in the developing music programs he smiled vibrantly and said,

“Let’s bring it to the next level!” Hudson High, the future is bright for your flourishing music department.

**What’s new on the agenda:** Tri-M, led by Mr. Vorwald, is a honors’ music program that will assist the band and jazz band in its fundraising. With this program’s big intentions, they are looking to put on various fundraising activities.

## Hudson Senior High Unity Day

By Sharmin Akther

Hudson Senior High School celebrates Unity Day! Students here at HHS came together and wore orange to represent anti-bullying day. We had the Junior High students join along with the awareness and many of them wore orange too!

On October 19th, students helped raise awareness about Unity Day by signing our Unity Tree in the cafeteria and our unity posters. Students wrote positive things about why people shouldn’t bully and signed for support. The teachers even came together and wore orange too. We recognized Unity Day here at HHS to show that bullying is a serious issue. Whether you’re a bystander, victim, or even the bully, you need to take into account that everyone has problems of their own and picking on someone is not the route to solving your problem.



## An Interview With Mrs. Miller

### By Osman Gofran

Mrs. Miller is a former Hudson High alumni of the class of 1979. She is currently working for the school she graduated from as the Administrative Assistant to the Principal. Mrs. Miller worked at a bank for over 20 years before working here for the school district. Currently, she has worked at Hudson High for over 11 years, and was at JLE before that.

Over the years, she has seen big changes, such as the use of different forms of technology, loyalty to the alma mater, and the cohesiveness of teachers. Around the same period that she graduated from Hudson High, Mr. June, Mrs. Keyser, Mrs. Wolferstag, Mrs. McDonald and Mr. Konderwich all graduated too and just like her, they are all a part of the district they graduated from.

Mrs. Miller's time in high school was busy, as she was always helping out with things for her class. In high school she was involved in many things such the Yearbook Club, the Ski Club, a

class officer, and she was editor in chief of *The Owl*.

As an Administrative Assistant to the Principal, Mrs. Miller is always busy with work, but she is very organized. She helps work with class advisors and the principals, organizes graduation and senior awards, orders the school budget items, along with the Poucher fund, coordinates events, troubleshoots daily problems, and something everyone is familiar with, does the morning announcements.

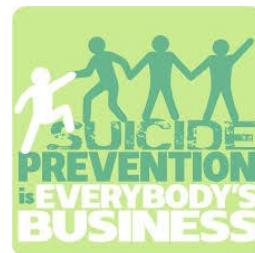
Mrs. Miller says that working at Hudson High makes her feel like she's in "high school all over again." Her favorite part of her job is getting to be a young kid everyday. Her least favorite part of her job is dealing with different personalities. Mrs. Miller is a very open person and describes herself as an "open book." For the students of Hudson High, she advises everyone to "enjoy every minute in high school because it's



the best." All throughout her life she has been hard working, and now it is reflected in her career. Mrs. Miller is a perfect example of how hard work pays off in the future.

## Suicide Prevention

### By Sifath Khan



The Suicide Prevention Walk was help on Sept. 24th and the outcome was great. Participants joined the walk from all around the community, whether it was for the remembrance of a lost loved one or to support someone in need. The participants of the walk came together to unite and support a great cause. There were support groups that were present and helped inform the walkers about ways they can help a loved one, or even someone they know who suffers from suicidal thoughts. A spectacle that awed the crowd was the hundred balloon angels that were released into the sky in remembrance of the passed loved ones. The 5k walk was led by the Taconic Hills' baseball team in support of a lost teammate. They walked through Hudson as they showed support for suicide prevention. Some of our very own Hudson High teachers were present. Mrs. Zinco and members of the SADD club were there to support the walk. Mr. Ohrin was also present, showing his love for walking while also supporting a great cause. The Suicide Prevention Walk is an annual event and will be held again next fall for anyone who wishes to participate.

## Girls' Varsity Tennis

### By Tahrima Siha

The girls' varsity tennis team consisted of amazing and hard working people! The players for the season were Autumn Kudlack, Nadia Miah, Most Islam, Saima Hannan, Annaliese Tampasis, Kristen O'Connell, Sarah Li, Malaysia Singh, Justine Marotta, Cecile Ruiz, Monserrat Gomez, Khadija Khan, and myself, Tahrima Siha. The coaches invested a lot of time to make sure that the girls can rise to their full potential. Coach Qua was at the courts everyday, on time to guide the girls. The same can be said about assistant coach, Jared Scali. Even with school, homework, and personal life on the side, he spent a tremendous amount of time on the courts everyday! He arrived at the courts before the girls, stayed after practice if anybody needed or wanted some extra hitting time, and went home after all the girls were picked up by their rides. With the loss of multiple talented, senior tennis players due to graduation last year, this season was a rebuilding year for the team.

With the guidance of Coach Qua and Jared, and the help of Mr. Cukerstein, the girls on the varsity tennis team finished off their season on the 14th of October with a team sectional game against Catholic Central in Troy. The team claimed its position as the 4th seed in section B this year. They won their first team sectionals game against Coxsackie Athens at home with an amazing score of 6-1! Each and every member of the team put a great amount of effort into the season's practices and games. Everyone has noticed great improvement within each other throughout the season. The team had a total of seven victories this season. Tennis does not only require the skill to hit a green ball with a racket; it also requires smart and quick thinking. I give a lot of credit to the girls for being able to think rationally and move quickly enough to hit the ball, especially under pressure with the ball zooming in their direction.

Coach Qua said, "With this year being a rebuilding year, the girls played well beyond my expectations. There wasn't a drastic improvement, but it was more than I had expected. In each and every match, the girls put in their best effort for the team. All together, they made this a very enjoyable year."

I think I speak for everyone on the tennis team when I say that our away games were quite special. We sang on our way to and back from the games on the bus. We listened to and sang songs by various artists, such as Justin Bieber, Shawn Mendes, Drake, Ariana Grande, Nicki Minaj, and many more! Our personal favorite song to sing was "Stitches" by Shawn Mendes, it was a must on every single ride in the bus! Our favorite activity was getting food after a game. We enjoyed playing in the playhouse at McDonalds. Yes, we are high school girls and we still like to go in the playhouse. We gave each other nicknames, such as Exhibition, President, The Destroyer, Warrior Princess, Red, Baker, Pretty Face, & Tsunami. It may not have been as successful of a season as we had hoped for, but overall, it was a very memorable year for all of us on the team.



## Chromebooks In Our School

### By Autumn Kudlack

First of all, I want to thank Mr. Abitabile for the awesome insight into this topic. Chromebooks have already been a great change to our school. For two years now, there have been Chromebooks in this school but far fewer than what there are now. The plan with Chromebooks is that every individual student will have his/her own Chromebook by the end of the third semester. These will be loaners, not “give-aways.” Similar to having to pay for a new textbook if you damage it, you will have to pay for a new Chromebook if you damage or lose it. If you forget your Chromebook, you may be able to borrow a loaner from the Apex room for the day, but this will be the exception and not the rule. If students are absent for extended periods of time, they could potentially get assignments through the Chromebook to do their work from wherever they are. Teachers can grade papers and other assignments turned in to them through the Chromebook from home.

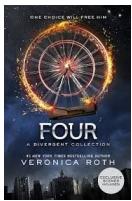
The original idea of having Chromebooks in this school came when Mrs. Bender talked to Mr. Abitabile, the principal, about doing a project with her Economics class. There were a couple computer labs in the school, but the problem was that she couldn't get computers for every class to do the project. After this, Mr. Abitabile researched different devices like tablets, laptops, and Chromebooks to have in the classroom. He says he didn't even know what a Chromebook was at the time, but he talked to some students and one of them told him about Chromebooks. He looked into it and it seemed that Chromebooks were cheaper than everything else and could be used for everything that the teachers required computers for. The school bought three class sets at first: one for Mr. Tassinari, one for Mr. McDarby, and another for Mrs. Bender. Then they bought more class sets. Next thing you know, they looked at the end of the year and they had an overabundance of Chromebooks amongst fifteen or sixteen teachers. Some teachers had class sets and loved them, but others didn't have class sets and couldn't stand it because they also wanted access to this amazing tool for their own students. There were only 500 students in the building and 550 Chromebooks, so there was already enough Chromebooks for every student to have one. That was when Mr. Abitabile decided to hand them out to students. They had already had the initiative to have every student have his/her own individual Chromebook at the beginning, but now it is finally happening.

Mr. Abitabile recalls the strides in technology that have happened in this school. Examples include individual email addresses, the Google Classroom, and Google Docs. Mr. Abitabile says, “The thing that gets me most excited is emailing and the Google Classroom. . .you can make changes live on a document that's shared. We just weren't able to do that before, so it's pretty exciting stuff.” Having the individual Chromebooks in the individual students' hands would be another great thing to add to the list of great technological strides in our school. In addition, Mr. Abitabile says that the Chromebook is a tool for teaching. However, even though we will have access to Chromebooks at school, home and on the go, there is still no replacement for face-to-face contact and communication.



## Four By Ummeh Era

*Four*, by Veronica Roth, takes place in a society organized into five factions. There is Abnegation, Amity, Erudite, Candor, and Dauntless. Children are raised in their parents' factions, and when they are sixteen, they choose for themselves which faction will be theirs for the rest of their lives. Tobias Eaton, the misused and isolated son of Marcus, is the leader of the Abnegation faction. The stories trace his path from the choice to join Dauntless to his first encounters with Tris, heroine of the *Divergent* trilogy and the love of his life. The gist of the story is free will because Four did not stay in his born faction; he decided to go somewhere else and become his own person and not just Marcus Eaton's son. The lesson is support what you believe in. Filled with many action packed events, this book had a very good storyline and it keeps you thinking. I enjoyed every last moment of the book and I would definitely recommend this book to anyone who likes fiction, science fiction, and a lot of action.



## Welcome To Hudson, Mr .Moon By Jahid Hasan

### Editor:

- Saima Hannan

### Contributors:

- Sharmin Akther
- Clair Bazar
- Ummeh Era
- Osman Gofran
- Jahid Hasan
- Most Islam
- Sifath Khan
- Autumn Kudlack
- Cecille Ruiz
- Ahsraful Shamrat
- Tahrima Siha
- Mashuda Sultana
- Annaliese Tampasis

### Advisors:

- Ms. Cipollari
- Mrs. Near

Most of you may know Mr. Moon from high school choir. He is the replacement for Mrs. Mastriani who retired last school year. Mr. Moon teaches the junior high and the high school choir. He also teaches the 7th and 8th grade music classes and will be doing the musical in the spring. Mr. Moon wants the junior high music students to enjoy music and learn from it by relating it to their everyday lives. He wants the high school choir class to increase their abilities and encourages them to sing as a group. By the same token, he also wants the music program to grow. He has many exciting plans for this year.

Mr. Moon graduated from SUNY Potsdam. He has experience as a teacher in many school districts, including Shenendehowa. He did his student teaching at Hudson Falls as a general music teacher and a high school choir teacher. Mr. Moon likes Hudson a lot. He loves what he teaches, not to mention how the semesters are set up for the 7th and 8th music classes.

For the school play, Mr Moon is considering *Footloose*. *Footloose* is about a teenager named Ren McCormack who moved from Chicago and is in shock when he discovers the small Midwestern town that he now calls home has made dancing and rock music illegal. Ren has a hard time fitting in so he decides to open up people's minds about dancing and rock music. The antagonist of the story is a pastor named Reverend Shaw Moore who stands in his way. The story is really exciting and will be fun to watch this spring. Keep posted to *The Owl* for more information on this year's musical.

