

The OWL



December 2019

Boat Race By Mashuda Sultana

This year, Hudson High held its fourth annual Great Cardboard Boat Race on November 26th. Students from Mr. Beyer's Technology classes created six boats to use in the race. There were opposing teams from local schools who competed. Ichabod Crane had six boats and Germantown had five. The students worked very hard on assembling the boats. The boats were constructed by using cardboard, duct tape, glue, and recycled plastic bottles. Each of the six boats also had two paddles to maneuver in the water. Unfortunately, Ichabod Crane won this year but with continued hard work and dedication, Mr. Beyer and his technology students are sure to definitely succeed in the upcoming years!



Veterans' Day Parade

By Humyara Nupur and Carlos Vazquez Jr.

Every year, The Veterans' Day Parade goes through Hudson to honor our military. Veterans sacrifice their comfort and safety for our freedom and deserve a big thank you!

Mr. Vorwald, the band teacher at Hudson Sr. High School, has taken on the responsibility of organizing this parade. This is what he had to say:

Is the Veterans Day Parade annual?

Yes, Hudson High's marching band has marched to honor our Veterans every year for decades.

What parts of Hudson does the parade march through?

We marched from 7th Street Park to the Hudson Courthouse. At the courthouse we provided music for the Veterans' Day ceremony. We played the *Navy Hymn* and the *Star Spangled Banner*. Devin Middleton played bugle calls including *Colors* and *Call To Assembly* and both Devin and Neil Mingua played *Taps*.

Were there any sponsors that helped make the parade possible?

The parade is put on by various Hudson veterans' associations.

How many instruments played? What type of instruments?

30+ students played wind and percussion instruments.

How long did it take to make preparations?

The marching band has been working on parade music and pep-band music since the week before school started when we had our marching band training camp.

Where there any notable people taking part in the parade?

The parade included local fire departments, local faith groups, Boy Scouts, and speeches by Hudson's Chief of Police and Mayor Rick Rector.

What were the songs played during the parade?

While marching we played "The Marines Hymn," "The US Army March," "The Coast Guard March," and a medley of New Orleans brass band music which included the songs "It Ain't My Fault," and "Bluehawks, Here They Come."

Secret Santa

By Subrina Huda

This year, the Gay-Straight Alliance Club hosted its annual Secret Santa Celebration. Its members exchanged gifts and had snacks and drinks at the party. There was music and the members took pictures. Its main objective is to make sure everyone is welcomed to the club. If you don't want to miss the fun, come join the Gay-Straight Alliance and enjoy their parties and celebrations to come! All are invited.



Mr. Wood Interview

By Halima Chowdhury and Osman Gofran



Mr. William Wood is the new Associate Principal at Hudson Senior High School. Mr. Wood has been a high school educator for the past several years and is looking forward to his new leadership role.

Tell us a little about yourself. I grew up in Long Island and came up to SUNY Albany at 18. I was an English major, with a minor in Italian. I am married with two daughters, 2 and 4 years old. From a young age I've always wanted to be a musician, and ever since I was 14, I played live music with various groups. I've played guitar and bass in genres such as: modern country, popular and heavier types of rock, and some funk. I was also a lead singer and guitarist in the last act I performed in before taking a break to raise my girls and focus on my career. I also play basketball and baseball and enjoy ping-pong and chess. I will always have a fondness for English and greatly enjoyed my time primarily teaching that content area before moving into school leadership. Some authors I am a fan of are Cormac McCarthy, Ernest Hemingway, Joe Hill, and the occasional Stephen King story.

Where you went to high school? (clubs, sports you did there) College? (degrees) I went to high school at W.T. Clarke High School. I was involved in Tri-M, Honor Society, Jazz Band, and Orchestra as some of my extra-curriculars. I also played basketball and baseball for the school. I earned my NYS certification as a School Building Leader through SUNY Albany. I also hold a Master's degree in Adolescent Education from The College of Saint Rose and a Bachelor's degree in English from SUNY Albany.

Why did you pick the career you chose? What motivated you? Building literacy, helping people read and write and love doing it is what really drove me. I always strived to make students feel passionate about the importance of reading and critical thinking skills. I wanted to do more and expand from that which led to me starting my administration program in 2016.

What was your previous teaching experience? Where and for how long? I previously worked at HFM BOCES in Johnstown where I taught English for 5 years. There were several years where I taught Journalism and Global Studies as well.

Why did you pick Hudson? What makes Hudson different from previous places you've worked? I did a great deal of research about the district and thought that I could contribute to its growth. It's also an exciting time to enter this district as a lot of really positive change is taking place. My main work will hopefully focus on empowering the staff and trying to create a system to make the students, staff, and faculty be united and successful. I also want to continue the great work being done regarding PBIS and plan to develop it further.

What's the best thing about your job? I love working with students, parents, and departments as well as having the opportunity to build relationships with students on a different level than I was able to before as a classroom teacher.

What's the downside of the job? Learning how to handle different systems and tasks from the previous people who've been here, and how to navigate in a unique environment will be a rewarding challenge. Many of our fantastic staff members have been here and have been part of the history of Hudson. I also have very large shoes to fill left by our now current Building Principal, Mr. LaCasse.

What advice do you have for students? While every day isn't going to be perfect, you have control over your actions and how you approach any given situation. There is always something new to be learned and it's all about your mindset and trying to do your best, so you can be successful long term wherever you go in the future.

Is there anything interesting you would like to add? (Fun facts) I watch a few modern shows when I have time such as: *Arrow*, *The Flash*, *Supernatural*, *Castle Rock*, *911*, and *The Mandalorian*. In my free time I appreciate spending it with my family and taking time to read, sing with my girls, and play games with them. My favorite series growing up was *Star Wars* and I hope to share that with my daughters as they get older.

Kindness Club

By Ayteal Sajid

The Hudson Senior High School's Kindness Club is a club organized by Mrs. Schmitt and their main goal is to spread kindness. The club runs the school store and serves different kinds of services to the school, including serving coffee to teachers. In addition, the Kindness Club also rents out their classroom space for other clubs to sell merchandise to raise money.

The club's goal in general is to help students earn credits to graduate and gain outside experience. One way they do this is during seventh period on blue days when the Kindness Club has a gym class where students acquire half a credit for the semester. In addition, the club's students work off campus three days a week for work studies at a therapeutic center. They do internships at local shops like the Tractor Supply Store, The Goodwill Store, and a local laundromat. The students that are in the Kindness Club work to learn valuable life skills that will help them as they graduate high school and join the work force.

The profit that the Kindness Club makes off the school store is spent towards helping other clubs out and sometimes the money goes towards field trips the club goes on. Just last week, the Kindness Club went to Proctors Theater to watch *The Nutcracker* and Mrs. Schmitt even wrote a grant for the transportation! This December, the Kindness Club helped raise money for buying gifts for children in need. The club itself raised \$400 and collected an additional \$150 to buy \$600 worth of gifts for the children at the elementary school. The Kindness Club aims to give back to the people and spread kindness. "After all," said Mrs. Schmitt "it's all about kindness."

Hudson High School's Music Department's

Winter Tour

By Arianna Camacho

Every year junior high and high school students who are in band and choir have the opportunity to spread holiday joy by showcasing their talents to the community.

This year, students will be performing in small groups at Whittier, M.C. Smith Elementary School, and the Firemen's home. During the tour, small groups perform classic Christmas songs while the audience members are encouraged to sing along.

The tour offers a great opportunity for students to get involved with the community. Last year, while on the tour, high school students helped younger kids in elementary school sight read music and play songs on stage. The tour also serves as a motivator for students to join band or choir in the future, all while celebrating the winter season.

At Whittier and the Firemen's home, performing gives the residents something to look forward to. It allows a bright and festive break from their everyday routines where they can remember how they celebrated holidays in the past.

Overall, the winter tour aims to bring people together during the holidays through something everyone can relate to~ through music.

Mock Trial

By Hemel Debnath

Mock Trial is one of the many clubs that helps students build real-life experiences in professional careers at the Hudson Senior High School. As its name suggests, Mock Trial is essentially a club where students play varying roles within a simulated (or mock) trial in order to learn what procedures and political knowledge is used in an actual trial. The club is especially beneficial for those students who aspire to have a career related to the study of law and politics, as many of the cases that club members deal with reflect real federal and state laws that exist within the United States.

This year, members of Mock Trial will be working on a case related to a violation of federal laws on interstate commerce in a case known as *United States vs. Phoenix Jones*. The case specifically alludes to a violation of federal laws, stating that interstate commerce of stolen goods is illegal. Its illegality is detailed in how a recent college dropout, known as Phoenix Jones, intended to illegally receive stolen goods that he bought off the dark web for the purpose of reselling to local pawn shops. The case is among the complex ones that the club has studied as it pertains to the use of new cryptocurrency, known as Bytecoin, which can be anonymously used by a buyer without exposing the buyer's name, address, or other personal information. Additionally, most of the evidence for the case is largely uncertain and unreliable since law enforcement officials cannot say for certain whether Jones was the buyer of the goods. Due to the anonymity of the buyer, the use of an alias known as Emery Rose, and the use of grainy security camera footage as evidence, this case is especially difficult to figure out.

Nevertheless, with such evidence being considered, members of the Mock Trial will work to gather evidence that either supports or refutes Jones' innocence in preparation for the upcoming trial, which will occur sometime this early Spring.

Winter Walk

By Natalie Garcia

On December 7, 2019 Hudson celebrated the 23rd annual festival of the Winter Walk. The Winter Walk is held every year in the city of Hudson on Warren St. For just one evening, this street turns into a winter wonderland! The evening started off with a Santa Parade which then proceeded to Hudson Hall. There was entertainments such as Mr. and Mrs. Claus with their reindeer, roaming carolers, and beautiful storefront displays. Along the street, you could find people dancing, wonderful musicians, adorable animals, and food that smelled amazing! You could go inside the stores and find more joy. Even though the night was cold, people could warm up with some piping hot chocolate or coffee. During Winter Walk, members of the Jr. High and Hudson High band played at the First Presbyterian Church. The band played wonderfully alongside choir members who sang beautifully. The Winter Walk is a great way to start off December and is a joyful way to really feel the Christmas vibes!



HHS Alum Returns for Career Luncheon

By Humyara Nupur

Molly Koweeck is a former student at Hudson Sr. High who now works as a news anchor/reporter for News Center 7 in Dayton, Ohio. On December 4th, Koweeck came to her old high school to talk to *The Owl* about her experiences in a field as versatile as media.

Coming out of Boston University, Koweeck would agree that she was quite naive when it came to the not-so-glamorous world of reporting. After getting her degree in Broadcast Journalism, Koweeck took on a job in Wausau, Wisconsin working for WAOW mornings. Her work day would start off by walking through the station doors at three in the morning and getting ready to go on air at 5:00 AM. According to her, waking up early in the morning was a task she had to work on as she was a notorious snoozer. Koweeck now works as a co-anchor along with James Brown for WHIO Dayton on the nightly news. A lover for purple, Beyonce and ice cream, Koweeck spends her days reporting all across the nation. From interviews with President Donald Trump to writing about dad's superheroes, Koweeck has not only melted hearts but has also given a voice to the voiceless.



Staff:

Editor: Osman Gofran

Contributors:

- Arianna Camacho
- Halima Chowdhury
- Hemel Debnath
- Natalia Garcia
- Subrina Huda
- Humyara Nupur
- Ayteal Sajid
- Mashuda Sultana
- Carlos Vazquez, Jr.

Advisors:

- Ms. Cipollari
- Mrs. Near

