

# The Hamilton Harbinger

Winter 2008

Published by and for the students of Alexander Hamilton High School



The A'Jenai Young memorial wall outside the Hamilton Library.

## Hamilton Community Remembers A'Jenai Young

Joe Breese '09

September 4th started just like any other day before school. We were actually excited to return to school! Yet, as many of us prepared for tomorrow, we received horrible news. Our dear friend, A'Jenai Young, had lost her fight with Sickle Cell disease, and she was clinically brain dead. Though many of us were up all night, we decided to go to school the following day just to be there for one another.

While sitting in the hallway teary eyed alongside Devona and Chris, Mr. Soloway approached the three of us suggesting we do something positive and proactive in A'Jenai's name. That very day we stayed after school, alongside Mr. Soloway and Mrs. Schulze, to discuss some possibilities. Our resolution was to create a wall in A'Jenai's loving memory. Our idea was to sell cut-outs of angels, clouds, and stars and donate the proceeds the American Sickle Cell Anemia Association. ASCAA would use our donation to fund research to ultimately cure this disease and also to aid families suffering to meet the cost of medicine for loved ones dealing with the disease.

Our classmates all wanted to participate in making this idea a reality. We had a large group of A'Jenai's friends helping.

Among them: Nicole Keene, Arnold Lane, Tyonna Smith, Tamika Smith, Anthony Cole, Kareem Gray, Cerete Baltazar, Mariam Mendez, Ivanna Mendez, Solange Escobar, and Diamond Dare, A'Jenai's cousin. The group worked diligently to set this up holding meetings once, sometimes twice a week to get the project started. What we really wanted was to have the wall ready for display on A'Jenai's birthday to present to her mother, Mrs. Dianne Plummer.

The memorial celebration of A'Jenai's 17<sup>th</sup> birthday was a success, held in the Hamilton Library at 2:30 on January 10<sup>th</sup> 2008. In attendance were an overwhelming number of students and faculty members. Many members of A'Jenai's family made the trip to our school for the memorial. At the celebration, we unveiled to Mrs. Plummer the beautiful mural that read: A'Jenai Young: A True Angel. We also presented Mrs. Plummer with a certificate from ASCAA that acknowledged the donation made in A'Jenai's memory. Overall, we raised upwards of \$1500.

### A message to A'Jenai:

*Your time here was short, but in the short time you were here you impacted many people. I am personally one of them and I feel blessed everyday that I knew you. You truly made me and everyone else around you a better person. You influenced us to do our work first, and then have fun. All your close friends would say that. Thank you for blessing us with your presence. You will be forever missed.*

### A'Jenai Sehkina Young

January 9<sup>th</sup> 1991 - September 4<sup>th</sup> 2007

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## Mr. Who?

Jennifer Glen '12

It wasn't until we read Robert Lipsyte's The Contender that we realized that we've got our own amateur boxer right here in the halls of Hamilton. You all know Clarence Hewins (also known as Mr. C) who is our School Safety Officer. I talked to him about his boxing career while he was in the military:

**Me: Mr. Clarence, would you ever like to continue your career of being a boxer again?**

Mr. C: No, I won't continue it because, you know, it was fun while it lasted. I had fun doing it, but now I'm doing bigger and better things.

**Me: Was boxing a big part of your life?**

Mr. C: Yes, boxing was a big part of my life, because it helped me build a lot of self-esteem and have respect for others as well as myself.

**Me: Was boxing very challenging and why?**

Mr. C: Very challenging because I got to compete against some boxers that were better than me, which made me better because I beat them.

**Me: Did boxing help you overcome your fears?**

Mr. C: It helped me overcome certain fears that I had while growing up and during my time in the military. Boxing made me very strong.

**Me: Was your family ever scared of your being a boxer?**

Mr. C: No, my family wasn't scared of my participating in boxing. They just wanted me to be careful during my boxing career.



**Me: Did you get hurt a lot during your fights?**

Mr. C: Well, I got hurt twice. First time I got hit with a body shot in the ribs. I had bruised ribs for about three weeks. Then the second one that happened, I got eight stitches. But other than that, that was it.

**Me) Is boxing a sport you would advise young people to get into?**

Mr. C: Well, only if somebody really did enjoy fighting and they have real good skills. If that's what they wanted to pursue to be, by all means do it.

**Me: Where did you used to fight?**

Mr. C: I have boxed in Germany, Spain, Italy, France and Australia. When I was in the states, I boxed in Texas, Louisiana, North Carolina and South Carolina

**Me: How many times did you win a fight?**

Mr. C: I had a 52 and 2 record. I had 24 first round knockouts. I had 15 second round knockouts. The only person I lost to by two losses by decision was Ray Mursa.

**Me: All right, Mr. C, thank you for answering my questions. Boxing really does inspire people and I thank you for talking to me about your interesting past.**

Mr. C: You're welcome!

We'd love to hear from you! Please send your questions, letters, or comments to the Harbinger Staff at:

**[studentnews@elmsd.edu](mailto:studentnews@elmsd.edu)**

## NYLC: One Student's Trip to D.C.

Ladora Cromwell '10

Over the summer I received a letter for a program to go to Washington, D.C for the National Young Leaders Conference. At first, I didn't know exactly how to react. However, my mother was really excited. The National Young Leaders Conference is a leadership program that deals with the concepts and exposes the decision-making process of our government leaders.

At NYLC, I had many opportunities to interact with other people from around the country and play roles of the three-branches of government. Although I'm not a big fan of politics, I had fun. The Model Congress allowed us to simulate the debate of the U.S. House of Representatives. Each group or caucus has an amendment that they will try to convince others to vote to put in a bill. People such as I was a lobbyist. Others were chairpersons, testifiers, amendment writers, or committee liaisons. There was one Speaker of the House. As a lobbyist, I went around the groups trying to get them to vote for our amendment. My group even came up with a song. I was nervous at first but then I became more comfortable around the people. After, we had a Committee Hearing and a General Session in which, sadly, our amendment did not pass. So, in response, my caucus and I voted against the bill. Another simulation was "If I Were President," in which we tackled a crisis between Taiwan and

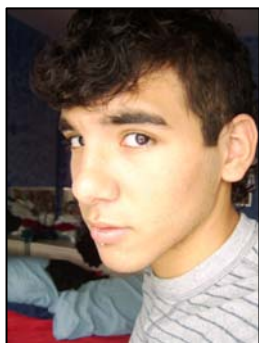
China. This simulation was an exercise of the executive branch of government. We played members of the president's staff. We had to come up with a solution that will ease the tension between Taiwan and China. It was very hard because being the Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, every military option we came up with, had a downside to it. Overall, the simulations were hard but the experience was extremely rewarding. One of the best experiences I had was meeting new people. I met people from around the country, even from Guam! The people there are the nicest people I've ever met. They were extremely friendly and would walk up to you and start asking where you were from. After a couple of minutes, it would seem as if you knew the person already. One of my friends had the same birthday as me, we both came from New York, and we were roommates! That was one of the coolest but weirdest coincidences I'd ever encountered. One of my friends is fluent in Japanese, another is a dancer, and one is also an actor who had been studying Shakespeare for almost eight years. I also did a lot of sight seeing. I saw the Washington Monument, White House, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Jefferson, Lincoln, Korean War Veterans, Vietnam Veterans, and Vietnam Women Memorials. I went inside the Supreme Court, the Air and Space Museum and the Museum of Natural History. I had lots of fun. I believe everyone should have the opportunity to experience what I have experienced. The leadership skills that I have learned will be carried with me throughout my life.

## Editor's Column

### Go Raiders! Go...Who?

Edward Menendez, '08

The smell of red, white, and black fabric, the sound of hands colliding together, the tremor caused by stomping feet, and the echo created by chanting voices, this is what school spirit is. The acknowledgment of our teams' perseverance, the sweat and work the coaches and faculty put in each day, the efforts of Hamilton's clubs, and the pride for our school, is the basis for a successful school community. Unfortunately,



Hamilton hasn't been the beacon of light which provides a blinding Force of spirit. I'm sure teams wouldn't appreciate that we use their games as a social gathering and not as a crucial event. However, it does have its moments where its fluctuating brightness becomes consistent and intense; Where the crowd stands, how the fans' eyes dry from not missing a moment, and when each step, each breath, each heart beat is the most important thing in the world.

This school year's Pep Rally may have just been Hamilton's report card regarding

school spirit and quite frankly I think it was barely satisfactory. This type of school convention should be where the school can unite and show their appreciation for their friends, peers, and teammates. Improvement, however, is not out of reach. A member of the Student Government said, "Maybe there wasn't much energy because the students didn't know how to react, since it was the first Pep Rally most of the students have attended." With this in mind, I'm sure the student culture will show increasing spirit, support, and pride for Hamilton and the Raiders.

# Class Notes –Class Clash Recapped!

Ben Rajan '08

The Class Clash that took place on Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup> will indeed be a Clash to remember for many years to come. All of the classes, including the junior high, displayed great enthusiasm and increased participation. The student body cordially thanks every class advisor who took the time and effort into making this year's Clash exquisite and successful. Class Clash is a Hamilton tradition that has encouraged the students to engage in competition, and this year the students definitely displayed their class pride well.

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes, winners of the previous 2004 Class Clash, usually stand with a disadvantage compared to the other grades; however, they performed valiantly and displayed their colors, yellow and green, with great spirit. The Junior High centered their theme this year on "Rainbows and a Pot of Gold." Many of the "dollar bill" decorations raised a few eyebrows, but the junior high pulled their performance together. As the first group of participants at every Class Clash, the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders brought competition to the following grades. Great work Junior High!



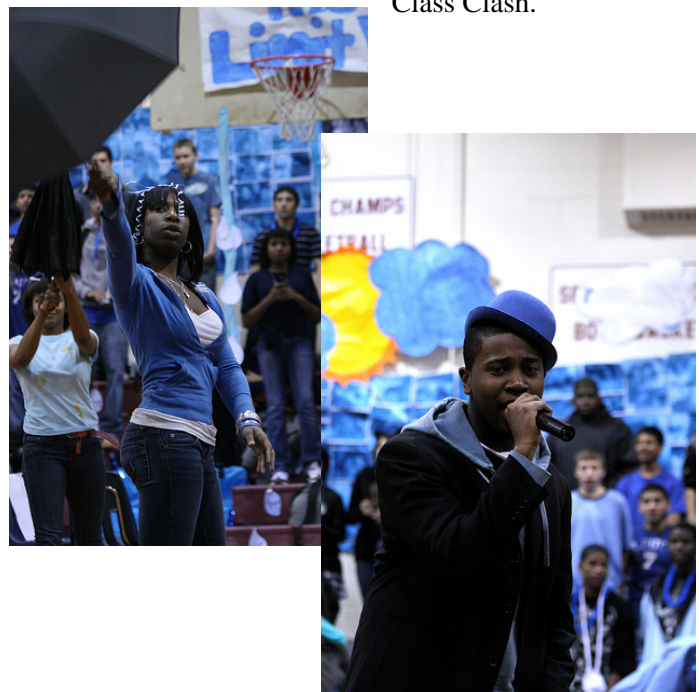
# Freshmen

Congratulations to the Class of 2011! Great work at this year's Class Clash, Freshmen! The 9<sup>th</sup> grade class was fully prepared to battle at this year's Clash, and indeed they did. The Freshmen theme was centered around "The Army," making it loud and clear as they hoisted a sign saying, "We Came to Battle." Fear and intimidation flooded the gymnasium as the dance team made their way to the floor. Their genre of music was focused on hip hop and their vivid dance routine sparked the entire gymnasium into excitement. Special thanks to Ms. Florio for developing and coordinating the decorations and dance team, as well as leading the Freshmen to victory at the 2007 Class Clash.

# Sophomores

Sophomores had their hearts set on one goal: to win. They had a very appealing background display of various pictures. An elegant blue collage was formed with pictures of different Sophomore students. The 10<sup>th</sup> grade definitely lived up to their theme, "The Sky's the Limit." Sophomores went far beyond expectations and gave a lively performance. Tejan Edwards excited the crowd, as well as the judges, as he sang the lyrics of their opening song, My Girl.

"He's actually singing the lyrics? Incredible!" exclaimed several students. The 10<sup>th</sup> grade class advisor, Ms. Revel Davis, made a surprise appearance during the performance, wearing a bright sun costume. Ms. Revel Davis' Clash spirit and the polished performance by the dance team shined well at the Class Clash.





# Juniors

The 11<sup>th</sup> grade centered this year's theme on a "Blast from the Past" featuring music from the 80's and 90's, such as Maniac, Beat It, Jump, and Hypnotize. A few whispers of skepticism emerged; however, the Juniors trumped all previous misconceptions with their amazing performance. White is often a difficult color to portray well without repeating past themes. Nevertheless, the Juniors brightened the gymnasium floor with their white apparel, introducing the crowd to their "oldie but goody" dance routine. Mr. Booth, the 11<sup>th</sup> grade advisor, also made a surprise appearance during the performance, displaying his undoubtedly smooth moves while capturing the crowd's attention.

# Seniors

Seniors, the winners of the past 2005 and 2006 Class Clashes, unfortunately did not win again at this year's

Clash. However, the 12<sup>th</sup> grade did show great sportsmanship, arousing the crowd after each grade's performance. As depicted on the Senior wall, this year's theme was focused on "Together." Despite the few negative comments about the wall and theme, the Seniors wove their performance together with enthusiasm. A variety of music was used to focus on unity, ranging from the Beatles and Grease to R. Kelly and Simple Plan. Furthermore, Howard made a friendly gesture as he circled the gymnasium to give high-fives to those nearby, and Eddie made a humorous attempt to quickly sweep the floor.



Unfortunately, the Senior's classic red apparel, dance routine, and selection of music was just short on swaying the judges at this year's Clash.

*The 2007 Class Clash will indeed be a memorable one. Best of luck to all the grades at the following Clashes!*

## Hamilton Idol Will Be Back... (A little later than anticipated!)

*Imani Shabazz '09*

### HAMILTON IDOL UPDATE:

Hamilton Idol will officially take place by late March. It was originally supposed to happen at the end of January, but the date has been changed so that it can happen at around the same time as the finale of the T.V. show, American Idol. All students from 7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to join or sign up and showcase their talents. It is a very exciting event and no one should miss it!

# Dilatory!

By Joby Jacob '09

We left on Wednesday afternoon. With frantic rushing and building excitement, we retrieved our luggage from the auditorium balcony and made our way outside. We boarded the yellow school bus that pulled up five minutes later, hoisting the luggage into the back of the bus and getting on the bus ourselves. The doors closed and we sat back in our seats as we set off to the Princeton Model Congress 2007 in Washington D.C.

Princeton Model Congress is a program for high school students run by Princeton students. They invite high schools across America to participate in this four-day mock congress. The high school students are designated committees according to their own choice prior to the trip. They must create a bill, or an idea for a law, pertaining to their respective committees. They will present these bills at PMC. Having a knowledgeable advisor like Mr. Budzynski helps make this process infinitely less painful for us at Hamilton. The bills, completed before the trip, must be researched to find concrete arguments for them. The students go to PMC anticipating debate over the validity of their bills, and are prepared to defend their idea before twenty other high school students. The entire process is carried out according to parliamentary procedure, which is how bills are debated in real Congress. Although it seems intimidating and confusing at first, it makes a lot more sense once the debating gets under way. Also, the Princeton students who monitor these debates are very helpful when it comes to explaining parliamentary procedure to the less legally inclined.

This seems like a lot of work, and it is, but the benefits are endless. Students who participate in this model congress learn invaluable information about the legal process. Documents that are the foundation of the American government, like the

Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and occasionally, even the Declaration of Independence, are brought up often to prove or disprove points regarding the ethics and legality of bills that are discussed at PMC. In addition to the academic experience, the trip also has positive social aspects. Students who go on this trip have the opportunity to meet teenagers from all over the country. Aside from the actual conference, there are a lot of recreational benefits to going on this trip. For one thing, there are the fantastic sight-seeing options. Also, students have the opportunity to spend a weekend completely relying on themselves, aside from being under Mr. Bud's watchful eye.

This year, twelve Alexander Hamilton High School students went on the trip: Susan Muller (Senior), Joby Jacob, Craig Jacoby, Michael Janos, Melissa Lawrence, Jensine Thomas, Tancy Thomas, Shani Varghese (Juniors), Antoinette Taylor, Sheena Varghese, Sarah Wolin, and Seth Wolin (Sophomores). In addition to these twelve students, Mr. Bud, the advisor, his wife, Mrs. Bud, and their 5-year-old daughter Caitlin, went on the trip as well, the two teachers acting as chaperones on the trip. We missed Thursday and Friday of class, and stayed in Washington until Sunday afternoon, leaving before the congress ended so that we could get back to New York before 4 o'clock. We had to make up the work we missed, and having to do that while extremely exhausted did not make things better. However, the memories of the experience definitely made all the extra work worth it. We arrived in Washington on Wednesday night, and after checking into the hotel and going over some ground rules, we went out to get dinner. Despite the fact that we were relatively on our own in Washington, we still had to abide by the rules of the congress and Mr. Bud's rules. That first night was the only night off until the congress ended. Every other night, we collapsed into bed after long sessions.



Not all of us immediately went to sleep. We could stay up late into the night as long as we stayed in our own rooms. On Thursday, we visited the Smithsonian Institution. We went to the National Air and Space Museum and the National Gallery of Art. We saw the evolution of the airplane and other space programs. A special exhibit was the Treasures of American History exhibit, where they showcased Dorothy's red slippers, the original Barbie, and C-3PO and R2-D2 from *Star Wars*. We spent half the day looking at these incredible exhibits, and the other half at the National Gallery of Art. We were able to see, in person, some of the same paintings we have seen numerous times in our history textbooks. The real thing is much more impressive than its miniature replica in our textbooks. After our sightseeing trip, we left to go to session. Sessions last for three to four hours at a time. Although they were tiring, we learned a lot and were introduced to some interesting and rather enlightening bills. For example, one of the bills that was presented in a session was the legalization of prostitution for regulation. Also, there were a number of bills that proposed legalizing the use of marijuana. Aside from these highly amusing bills, there were more serious bills regarding issues like the death penalty, immigration, and stem cell research. These kids really knew their stuff. After session, we had curfew at 11 pm. If we were hungry, we had to eat whatever we had in the rooms with us since we weren't allowed to go out after curfew. This trip made us rely solely on ourselves for everything we had to do. No one was there to tell us to go to sleep, or eat, or study. It wasn't as bad as one would think, but it was definitely different.

Friday was our longest day of session: we began at 9:00 in the morning and ended at 10:30 at night with one to two hour breaks for lunch and dinner. The day was incredibly exhausting, but we learned a lot, and

by the end of the day, we were a lot better acquainted with the rest of our committees. On Saturday, we had session in the morning, and then the entire afternoon off. During this time off, we visited the Arlington Cemetery, where the grave of former Hamilton student and fallen soldier Michael Arciola lies. We spent some time at his grave, paying our respects. Afterwards, we toured the rest of the Arlington Cemetery and then split up into two groups with different destinations. Half of us went back to the hotel, exhausted, and the other half decided to keep sightseeing. I was one among those who next went to the National Museum of Natural History, where we saw mammoths, dinosaurs, and rubies. The lifelike exhibits were definitely worth seeing, and the gem collection, which includes the famous Hope Diamond, was a high point of the trip. Two from our group went to see the famed monuments of Washington D.C., such as the Washington Monument. At around 6 pm, our entire group went to dinner. The most important event that happened here was the challenge our much esteemed classmate, Craig Jacoby, accepted by ordering the 24-ounce hamburger (please refer to the photo for a visual aide). A number of our group placed bets on his ability to finish the hamburger. Unfortunately, Craig was not able to finish the hamburger, but only because he did not want to get sick while in session later that night. Saturday night was our last session, followed by the Congressional Ball, which was technically a high school dance. Some of us stayed at the Ball and others went back to their rooms for a good, wholesome made-up game of cards, courtesy of Craig. Saturday was our last night in Washington. The next morning, most of us did not go to session since we would have to leave for the train station after only an hour of session. Our time on the trip back was mostly taken up by short cat naps between Katie's playful visits to our seats. Unfortunately, there were some problems with the trains and we had to get off at a station in New



Jersey instead of at the New Rochelle station as planned. However, we got home safely; only to finish whatever homework we had not done on the train. Overall, the experience was unforgettable, and although we were exhausted at the end of it, it was definitely worth it.

## A Day at PepsiCo

*Eugene Bender '10*

*Maddy Hirshan '10*

*Diana Vazquez '10*

Ten students signed up for the PepsiCo Youth Leadership Conference in Purchase, New York. We were all members of Youth Leadership and attended the conference on November 29, 2007. When we arrived, we filed in to the conference room and we ate breakfast. There were muffins, fruit, and bagels. As more schools entered the conference, a speaker named Neal entertained everyone. We were given nametags and binders. The nametags showed us our discussion group number and the workshops we would be attending. Also in the binder, we took notes on the characteristics of a good leader. We were separated from people in our school which gave us the chance to meet new people from other schools. Norm Hull was the head speaker and talked about attitude and commitment. He told us a story about a scuba diving experience he had in the Florida Keys. He was only supposed to go 25 ft. but pushed himself and went 80 ft. He used this story to exemplify the importance of commitment and attitude. It showed that you need to have a good attitude to accomplish your goals. Then we broke up into our workshops and participated in various social activities. We practiced greeting each other in different manners. First, we greeted each other as if you were talking to your ex-girlfriend or boyfriend. Then we talked as if the opposing person wrote something nasty on your facebook wall. In another discussion group we discussed how to become a CEO.

Norm Hull showed us the characteristics of a good CEO should be. He said that a CEO should have knowledge, confidence, and be a good speaker. Then we returned to the main hall and had lunch. The food was all Pepsi products like Chewy bars, Sun-Chips, and, of course, Pepsi! We then went we joined back up with our school groups and discussed possible plans for our own school. We thought of many varied ideas including a recycling program, painting the hallway, and cleaning up the school and it's hallways to make it a better place to learn. The trip to PepsiCo gave us all a chance to try and realize what we might want to do later in life and if we have what it takes. It showed the good qualities that we need to be a great leader.

## The Sound of Music

*Shani Varghese '09*

"Put a little love in your heart!" ended the Hamilton high school chorus, with applause following immediately afterward. A proud smile appeared on the face of the new chorus teacher Ms. DeMagestris, or, as we call her, Ms. D.

She has taught at four other schools, Putnam Valley Middle School being the last one. When asked how the experience at Hamilton differed from those at other schools, she said, "Students here enjoy singing—because of that we get more done, faster and better." Ms. D has composed music in the past and now hopes to be able to compose new music for our chorus—possibly even record them professionally.

This year, a new addition was made to the music program when Ms. D developed a junior high chorus. The purpose of this younger chorus is to expose seventh and eighth graders to the high school chorus and the corresponding experience of being in a high school chorus. The junior chorus gave a very positive feedback on the high school chorus's performance at the Holiday Concert; they thought it was great. They say that it gives them something to look forward to joining. Many say that chorus has improved tremendously from last year.

Keep it up Ms. D!

## Geoff's WrestleManiac's Corner

Geoff Coggeshall '08



### RAW News

John Cena has had a vacancy of his WWE Title due to an injury in his upper body due to a muscle tear. It was announced on ECW 10/2/07 that John Cena will be out for 6 months to possibly a year. Also that at the No Mercy pay per view, history will be made. Vince McMahon has not released any further information at this time concerning the WWE Title match.

### ECW News

Tommy Dreamer on ECW 10/2/07 had come close to going for the extreme gold at No Mercy when he almost won the elimination chase to No Mercy. He had defeated and eliminated Elijah Berk from the chase and thought he had won. This was until Armando Alahondro Estrada announced that he had to face Big Daddy V for his final opponent in the Elimination Chase. Tommy Dreamer almost beating the big man found himself about 300 pounds short of an advantage.

### Smackdown News

Batista will be putting his World Heavyweight Title against the Great Khali in a Punjabi Prison Match. Because of Khali's rematch clause Batista unfortunately has to face him once again. But the question remains if Taker does battle Batista again will the Animal be conqueror of the jungle or will Batista R.I.P.

### **No Mercy Results**

### RAW News

Randy Orton was awarded with the WWE Title at the beginning of the paper view. Triple H was granted a WWE Title shot right on the spot after calling Mr. McMahon a coward, therefore that's what convinced Vince McMahon to start the match. Triple H beat Orton and was the WWE Champion, but McMahon told him that he needed to defend his title against Umaga because that was the match he was supposed to have on the Card anyway. Triple H pulled off his first title defense of the night. Then, later that night Orton decided to evoke a rematch clause against Triple H and McMahon made it a Last Man Standing match and Triple H came about an inch away from walking away with the WWE Title. Randy Orton remained champ, Chris Jericho returned to RAW 11/19/07 and now has a title shot at Armageddon against Randy Orton.

### Smackdown News

Batista had a hell of an impact when he jumped to the other side of the Punjabi Prison Match. The Great Kahli was going to make it down on the spiked fencing part of this contraption, but Batista prevailed with a giant leap. The Undertaker's rematch was at Cyber Sunday and it took Batista 4 Batista Bombs to defeat Undertaker and Stone Cold was the ref. At Survivor Series Undertaker had a Hell in a Cell match with Batista and he was once again screwed by Edge. Edge had struck Undertaker with a steel chair on the steel steps then pulled Batista over for a cover, allowing Batista to remain champion for that night.

### ECW News

C.M. Punk was victorious against Big Daddy V because Matt Striker questionably got Big Daddy V disqualified when Striker C.M. Punk with a steel chair, saving C.M. Punks title rain.

## AT THE MOVIES:

### **National Treasure: Book of Secrets**

Diana Vazquez '10

The sequel to National Treasure was a great movie. It was by far better than the first in my opinion. It enlightened me about the various mysteries and myths there are on this planet. It's also very interesting to learn the many aspects of the world that I didn't know before. For example, I had no idea there were three statues of liberty which probably many of you didn't know. In the movie Ben Gates goes on a quest to defend his family's name and honor. Through the course of the movie they go through many clues to get to the final treasure. In the movie they introduce you to Ben Gates mother, played by Helen Mirren, who also helps them to decipher one of the clues. This is a movie full of thrill and adventure that will bring you through various emotions till the very end. This movie included known actors such as Nicolas Cage, Jon Voight, Justin Bartha, Ed Harris, and Diane Kruger.

### **Halloween: Remake**

Geoff Coggeshall '08

The remake was a good homage to the original, it was an extended story compared to the first one. It was however, tweaked a bit in the storyline, his mother had to be a stripper and his father had died and his mother was remarried to a drunk. His step dad would mock him especially when he found out that he enjoyed killing small animals like, rabbits, cats, and rats or mice. This was until one day after school when he had killed a boy who had bin bullying him the whole year with a tree branch. He wanted to go trick or treating, his sister made him go by himself, then he came back and killed his step dad by cutting his throat in his sleep. He stabbed his sister to death and waited outside until his mom came home.

The next morning his mother put him in an insane asylum, where he was told, that he can't go home because he's done terrible things. As he gets older he kills off a few guards and escapes to go back to Haddonfield just like in the original. He kills Dr. Loomis unlike in the original series where Loomis died in Halloween 6, and he then is supposedly killed by his little sister, but than he escapes and still lives on.

## IN SPORTS:

### Soccer Seniors!

Ben Rajan '08

Jairo Larios, a well decorated varsity soccer player, has played at Hamilton for the past six years.



Jairo's display of talent rewarded him with a placement as a starter. While playing in modified soccer, Jairo played in the forward position. He moved to center mid-fielder upon advancement to varsity soccer. Larios agrees with Segaloff's previous statement, "the team's offense has proved to be quite powerful, however, the defense needs significant work."

"The entire defense will remain relatively the same," stated Larios, "but they need to increase their training and strategies." Jairo says that Segaloff has always been a good coach that made considerate choices when putting players on the field. Jairo's final words for the team are to "always play hard, but work as a team!"

Eric Maya has played soccer



at Hamilton for two years. One of those years was spent playing modified soccer. In modified soccer, Maya played as left mid-fielder, but he was able to cope with any position in his year of varsity soccer. Eric also feels that the team lacked power defensively.

"We definitely need to work on our defense," stated Maya. It is crucial that the team continue training on defensive plays." Maya also feels that Segaloff is tough on the team, but he understands that it is necessary to fulfill the role of a good coach. Eric

Maya left a few final words to the varsity soccer team. "Guys, remember to work hard, but especially to work as a team."

### The Hamilton Dance Troupe

Nicole Keene '09

This year Hamilton revived a long lost group. At this year's first pep rally in years, six girls stomped their way to the center of the floor, causing the crowd to scream and cheer. After their great performance, the Dance troupe received numerous compliments and recognition from the teachers, staff, and students. So where do they go from there? Many said that they'd be happy to see the Dance Troupe perform at games and other sports events. "Yeah, it's about time Hamilton got some cheerleaders," said one Senior, "We need *some*



school spirit at the very least." The troupe consists of Ayana Cruise, Jessica Barrera, Nadrica Byfield, Dea Daly, Captain Tyonna Smith, and, of course, yours truly, Nicole Keene. The Troupe's coordinator, Ms. Fusco, was quite pleased with the girls' performance and organization. "It was really cool," she said "We coordinated ourselves very nicely and it was nice to watch everyone work together as a team." In response to keeping the dance troupe running at Hamilton, Ms. Fusco states, "Absolutely, it would be a nice thing. It would be totally great to have something unique to Hamilton." So many others, including myself, couldn't agree more!

**SUBMIT.**

studentnews@elmsd.org

### Pep Rally a Success

Arnold Lane '09

The Pep Rally was a success! After weeks of planning the Student Government kicked off the first Pep Rally in over fifteen years. After initiating the idea at a Student Government meeting back in October a committee was formed and formal planning began. Edward Menendez and myself, along with Treasurer Hashem Nasarat and Junior Representative Melissa Lawrance pitched the idea to the Board of Education and the PTA who were more than happy to help us. Next, we set up a meeting with Dr. Hendrickson who helped us get our planning underway. Elizabeth Cacaj and myself told Ms. Abbate about the idea and she was very excited. With the help of the Pep Rally Committee and a host of students including:

Martha Lane  
12<sup>th</sup> grade,  
Maria Annabi  
11<sup>th</sup> grade,  
Sydney Bridge,  
9<sup>th</sup> grade among  
others, posters  
and banners  
were made to

promote the Pep Rally as well as Spirit Week. Mr. Benben's A/V Crew kicked off the afternoon with some music and our announcer Mr. MacLeish introduced the Dance Team led by Tyonna Smith. After an impressive step the dance team went off the floor and the first varsity came out. Girls Varsity Basketball started with a drill and ended their skit with a dance. Next, came the Varsity Bowling Team who did a humorous skit involving an oversized bowling ball. Afterward, the Track Team ran out and then scattered before forming "T-R-A-C-K!" on the gym floor on Coach MacLeish's command. Finally, the Boys Varsity Basketball Team did a drill and shot basket for their skit. Concluding the Pep Rally Mr. MacLeish acknowledged the varsity team captains: Girls Basketball:

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Briana McGhee and Shereen Lightbourne, Bowling: Craig Jacoby, Winter Track: Eddie Menendez, Susan Muller, Martha Lane and Arnold Lane and Boys Basketball: Travis Desir, David Hill and Jonathan Schofield. Omar Nunez won the \$25 raffle and Eddie Menendez and Elizabeth Cacaj were also announced Spirit King and Queen. In general, feedback from the Pep Rally was positive from both students and teachers. We brought back a tradition and I am excite to see what happens next year.

On behalf of the Student Government I would like to thank the following:

The Board of Education

PTA

Dr. Hendrikson

Dr. Calvi

Mr. MacLeish

Mr. Holst

Ms. Fusco

Mr. Benben

Mr. Blondel

Ms. Abbate

Coach Escoto

Coach Benke

Coach Osswald

Coach Aiello

Coach Hogans

Lizz Cacaj

Martha Lane

Melissa Lawrance

Tyonna Smith

Sydney Bridge

And last but not least the A/V Crew!

And anyone else who helped to make the Pep Rally a success! Thank You!



have always been quiet and productive for the students, even if they were not doing schoolwork. Mrs. Watson, our librarian, appreciates the time given in Study Halls to do work. She says that it really helps students to have access to the library and other resources during Study Halls if they do not have time to come before or after school. She feels that, unfortunately, Study Halls are not being used to their full potential, but that the potential to do a significant amount of work is there. Obviously, the Hamilton administration is divided on their opinions about Study Halls.

However, how do the students feel about Study Halls? Upon interviewing a number of students, it was found that many hold the same opinion. The value of a Study Hall depends on the student. Some students do work, and some relax, relaxing being the more popular option at Hamilton. Students seem to feel that doing work makes the Study Hall more worth it, but one period to relax in their busy days can be helpful as well. Students who do work appreciate the time to finish any homework so they do not have to do it later. It was noted, however, that for some people, Study Halls really did not help anything. There are

## STUDY HALLS: BLESSING OR BOTHER?

*Joby Jacob '09*

Every Hamilton student has had a Study Hall at least once during their high school career. Usually, students have had many more than just one Study Hall over the four years they spend at Hamilton. Study Halls are usually put into schedules as “fillers” for students who already have the necessary number of classes in their schedules to attain the required credits to graduate. However, sometimes, Study Halls are put in because of a lack of classes for students.

The Guidance Department, which takes care of putting students in the necessary classes, loathes Study Halls. Ms. Luccioni believes that Study Halls are absolutely “ridiculous.” According to her, they are not used for the intended purpose, as no one actually studies, so their value is largely limited.

This sentiment is shared by some of the teachers at Hamilton. Ms. Spargo noted that having a Study Hall of 24 students is “not conducive to academics and quiet study.” She, among others, does not see Study Halls as worthwhile since most of her students just talk to each other during their free period. She would much rather prefer her Study Hall students to be enrolled in electives. (Students have the option of replacing their Study Halls with electives if they so choose by asking their guidance counselor, who is probably more than happy to replace these free periods with electives.) Ms. Covert defines Study Halls as “baby-sitting.” Her tone implied that she held an intense abhorrence for the “class.” However, she did mention that Study Halls could be more productive if they were modified or replaced with skills classes.

Not all the teachers at Hamilton hold this viewpoint. Ms. Sclafani has had only good experiences with Study Halls. She says that her small Study Hall classes

those who do work, those who quietly relax, and those who use their time for alternative recreational outlets that seem to catch the detrimental attention of teachers and administrators. Also, a number of students mentioned that they would prefer an elective to their Study Halls.

This brings forward the issue of electives at Hamilton. Perhaps it is time for Hamilton to expand the options for electives, creating a wider selection for students when it comes time to choose unique classes that might expose students to new ideas and skills they might decide to use in the future after high school. This might reduce having overwhelming numbers of Study Halls put into schedules. For example, sophomore Kesiah Mathew had four Study Halls last year, and has none this year. Many students do make use of their Study Halls when they need it, as concluded from numerous interviews with students. It all depends on the student. Despite this

gamut of opinions held by different students, not one of them said that they would give up Study Halls permanently.

So now it is up to you. What do you think? Are Study Halls worth it, or are they not?

**Email us and tell us what you think at [studentnews@elmsd.org](mailto:studentnews@elmsd.org).**

## Patricia Polacco Visits Elmsford

*Madeline Hirshan '10*

Do you remember the author who visited our school in October? It was Patricia Polacco, a well known author with an interesting history. Many people had different opinions on the assembly. Some felt that her past was inspiring and some did not. She began the assembly with the reading of one of her books called Pink and Say and then she continued to talk about how these stories were passed down in her family.

Patricia Polacco had a rough childhood filled with pain and embarrassment. She was teased for being overweight, and having a learning disability. She elaborated during the assembly about how cruel her classmates were to her. They called her terrible names and destroyed her self-esteem. She inspired those in the assembly who felt the same way she did. She evoked feelings of empathy in those who shared similar experiences. She inspired others to pursue their goals and become successful.



shocked to see how Patricia reacted to this innocent little laugh. The student laughed at Patricia's story at a point where she was slightly provoking a laugh. She was mocking her childhood bully's voice in a way that was comical. What really bothered me were Ms. Polacco's chastisement of that child and lack of understanding for his mistake. She singled him out and no doubt embarrassed him in front of his friends. It made me think, was Patricia Polacco any better than her old childhood bully? I talked to my friend Ben Rajan about it and he shared the same feelings. He also recognized that her presentation was very moving and felt remorse for her troubled past. However, Ben felt that toward the end of Ms. Polacco's presentation, she used her position to target those who once targeted her. Ben believed that she was not living up to her title, and her behavior was not one of a proper role model.

### Regarding Ms. Polacco

*Eugene Bender '10*

During the assembly while Patricia Polacco was talking of how she was teased, a student did something that bothered her very much. Even though instructed not to the student giggled at Ms. Polacco's story. Ms. Polacco proceeded to yell at the student and singled him out in the crowd. I was

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Ms. Spargo

## ASK L&M

Dear L & M,

I think I'm the only person who is not excited for the holidays. Everyone at my school is so happy and cheerful about getting presents, having a great feast with their families, or going on vacations, except me. My family does nothing. We have no Christmas tree, decorations, or spirit. I actually get depressed during the holidays. Last year I got ten dollars for Christmas and my "fancy" dinner consisting of cartons of Chinese food. My week off is just me, my couch, and my TV. When we return to school from vacation, I feel even worse. Everyone is like, "Oh, I got an X-box 360 and a Wii!" Then I tell them I got ten dollars and bought a ticket to the movies. I don't know what I should do to get my family more excited and more in the spirit of the holidays. I try so hard to get them to buy a Christmas tree or put up stockings but they are too busy working. I just don't know what to do. Please help me!

*Unhappy Holidays*

Dear Unhappy Holidays,

That is such a sad story. This might sound hard, but I feel that you should try to raise money and buy a tree and decorations if your parents do not have the money. This probably won't persuade your parents to take a week's vacation to Disney world, but it may help boost the holiday spirit in your household. You can also try to make a Christmas dinner and have your family sit together at the table and discuss New Year's resolutions or other topics. Attempt buying your parents something for Christmas or making them a card to show how much you care about them. Try these ideas and see if you can change your unhappiest time of the year to your most cheerful time. Good Luck!

*-L & M*

**L&M (Ladora and Maddy) welcome your letters! You can email them at [studentnews@elmsd.org](mailto:studentnews@elmsd.org)**

## Hamilton in the City

*Sandra Salinas '09*

The **Phantom of the Opera** by far is one of the best plays I've ever seen! --I actually cried! So when our small school of Hamilton heard of our trip to Broadway, a lot of the kids were very excited to go. Part of the wonderful staff that took us on the fun-packed trip was Mr. Booth, Ms. Silva and Ms. Florio. Ms. Silva acted as our tour guide since she lives in the city. They told us from the beginning that we will be walking up and down Broadway. Our trip began with a walk around Times Square then to the McDonalds. After our city eat in, we walked to Rockefeller Center where we gathered around the tree took many pictures and watched many people ice-skating. But our time at Rockefeller was short because we had to go on time to see the play! All the students were very excited once we walked in the theater. We rushed to take our seats, but at the same time most of the students and some staff were getting yelled at by this inconsiderate usher who was getting her attitude with everyone. But us Hamilton kids weren't about to let some uptight usher ruin our play. In the beginning, most students were uncertain about the play but toward the middle is when it really starts to get exciting. Nicole Keene says "The ending was poppin' and the trip in general I liked it, it was a very nice experience." When the play was over, most students were very anxious to get on the bus and have a nice, long nap. The city is a great place for students to go and experience a good time. Many students are very excited for our upcoming trips which will include another Broadway trip sometime around March and our legendary trip to Great Adventure right after final exams. Overall, the Phantom trip was fun and it opened our eyes to something. Consider coming to our future trips. See you there!



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**The school year is half over!**

**Don't miss the opportunity to join the *Harbinger* Staff. We meet THURSDAYS during 5<sup>th</sup> Period Lunch in Room 316. Who knows, you might even be able to convince your English teacher to reward you with some extra credit...**