

HILL HERALD

November 2010



St. Joseph Hill Academy's Student Newspaper



Message From the Principal's Desk:

Special Greetings to our *Hill Herald* Readers!

Lots of great things are going on around our school, in part due to *Hill Herald* articles. For example, the story about the Haitian victims who still need clothing and shoes, and the collection at Hill for them is one way that shows we care and are doing something to lend a hand. The fact that this was all spearheaded by a former Hilltopper, Mrs. O'Brien, is inspiring to all of us!

November gives us time to pause and reflect on progress thus far with the distribution of Report Cards and the scheduling of Parent Teacher Conferences. If anyone is disappointed in their report card, make a promise to change something so you do better during the next quarter. I came across a quote the other day that I would like to share with you about facing challenges - "The difficult can be done; the impossible may take a little longer!"

I don't know about anyone else but it feels like school just started a week ago and here I am wishing you a "Happy Thanksgiving"! Enjoy every minute of this special holiday, but don't forget what it is really about...being grateful for all we have! For our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive, I ask that every student bring in at least one item to donate to those who do not have enough to eat. It is one way that we can all make a difference!

In closing, I am thankful for you all!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Zissler

St. Joseph Hill Helps Needy Students By Connor Henchey

In a small farming village in a remote section of Nigeria, many children are able to use modern school supplies thanks to the generosity of thoughtful students at St. Joseph Hill Academy. The children are students at the Odaji-Agbo College, a K-12 school in Ayeko-Yala, Nigeria. The school was founded by Mr. Wonah Odaji, who is originally from the village of Ayeko-Yala and is now a teacher at Tottenville High School right here in Staten Island. Mr. Odaji wanted to help the poor children of his home village get an education, so he used his own money to build a school there and he began collecting used clothing and school supplies from the students at Tottenville High School so that he could send the supplies to Nigeria.



Last year, Olivia Vota, a fourth grader at SJHA, heard that Mr. Odaji was collecting old books, pencils, notebooks and other school materials for the Nigerian students. Olivia and her friend, fellow SJHA fourth grader Alexandra Santinello, wanted to help. With the support of their mothers, the two girls launched a campaign at SJHA to collect old school and soccer uniforms, all types of school supplies, and used summer clothing to send to the school in Nigeria. They named their campaign "Project Odaji", and it really took off! The generous families at SJHA filled three minivans with clothing and supplies. The teachers helped out as well, donating old readers, books and teaching supplies. It truly was a heartwarming response, and Mr. Odaji was speechless when he saw all of the wonderful donations. He even promised to dedicate a classroom in his school to SJHA!

This year, the collections for Mr. Odaji's school will continue at SJHA. Hopefully, our generous SJHA families will be able to help even more students in Nigeria who need an education. When you hear about the collection this year, please do your best to help!

A Little Knowledge about The first Thanksgiving

By Andrew Palacios

The first Thanksgiving held in the New World celebrated a successful harvest. The villagers of the Plymouth settlement and the Native Americans that helped them gathered for a huge feast.

The tradition that we celebrate today is very different from the first Thanksgiving. When the Native Americans and Pilgrims sat down to eat, the food had either been grown and harvested by the women in the tribe or hunted in the woods by the men of the tribe. As years past, the settlers' added their religious tradition to the celebration.

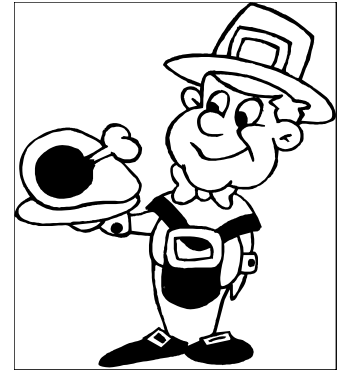
Eventually, the feast became a religious observance to thank God that they had survived another year and had been blessed with a good harvest.

Thanksgiving was made a National Holiday in 1941. Since then it has become a gathering for families to enjoy and is the unofficial start of the Christmas season. The holiday is marked with large parades, family dinners and, of course, football games.

On a personal note, Thanksgiving is nice because I spend it with my mother and brother. She makes a turkey, mashed potatoes and salad. We stay home and relax and watch TV. I hope every child can have food on Thanksgiving and spend time with the people they love.

I also hope everyone appreciates what they have because you never know what will **happen in the future**. Also don't forget to hug your Mom and Dad and thank them for everything they do for you.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING EVERYONE!



Book Review

By Courtney Brogle

Edited by Katie Scibelli

For this issue's review, I chose "My Sister the Vampire: Switched", written by Sienna Mercer.

This book is about Olivia Abbott-the new girl to Franklin Grove. At first, Olivia is eager to make new friends and desperately wants to make the cheerleading team, but then, she meets Ivy Vega-a Goth at her new school, Franklin Grove Middle School. The

two make a shocking discovery-they're twins that were separated at the age of one!



As if things couldn't get any weirder, it turns out that Ivy is a vampire! But even though they were divided for twelve years, the plan

to make the most out of the time they have together now. To do so, they decide to switch places! Talk about double trouble!

I enjoyed this book very much. This tale is aimed for girls ages eight to ten. Because the book is involved with a spooky vampire, it's perfectly in tune with Halloween! So, if you're a fifth or sixth grade girl who is dying for a good read this scary month, be sure to pick up this book!

It really bites!

Happy reading!



Parents, We Need Your Help Earning A+ Bonus Bucks

Written by the Hill Herald Team

Dear Parents,

As mentioned in our previous issue, our school is participating in Stop&Shop's A+ Bonus Bucks Program. Last year, Hill only had 22 families that registered their Stop&Shop card. So far this year only 13 families have re-registered their store cards.

Even if you registered your card last year, you must re-register for this year. Please

take a few moments out of your busy day and follow these steps to help us raise money for Hill's after school activities.

Log on to www.stopandshop.com/aplus and choose "Register your Card" from the A+ menu found under "Our Stores" to register your card online. Hill's school code is 06964. Then, each time you shop at Stop&Shop using your STOP & SHOP CARD, you will earn CASH for our school! You can track the amount of points you earn for our school by checking your grocery receipt and online when you create an account at stopandshop.com. Each month, the amount of CASH awarded will be reported here in the Hill Herald and updated on the Stop & Shop website. Our school will receive a check at the end

of the program in March.

We hope, with your help, we can be as successful as St. Charles Elementary school was last year when they raised \$30,000.



To show that the Hill Herald supports this fund raiser we have come up with a contest. Moms and Dads, save all your Stop&Shop receipts in an envelop from now to March. We will total all the Bonus Bucks earned and whichever family earned the most for Hill, will win a special prize.

Congressman McMahon Visits St. Joseph Hill Academy
Written by: Anne Marie Cortes

On October 15, 2010 Congressman McMahon visited our school to talk about his job and his days when he attended St. Joseph Hill Academy. The Congressman also talked about how he would represent Staten Island if he were re-elected as the congressman and how he has been successful in the past.

Congressman McMahon visited an 8th grade classroom, a 7th grade classroom, and a 5th grade classroom. In each classroom he gave students an opportunity to ask questions. Jonathan Carracappa, of class 7-1

asked a question regarding the school bus situation. Congressman McMahon explained that he is working hard to have the service returned to middle school grades. Another person asked a question concerning the health care bill that President Barack Obama passed recently. Congressman McMahon responded that although he is a Democrat, like the President, he could not support the bill. He explained that he believed that his district's people would not benefit enough from the bill. Congressman McMahon also mentioned how his apartment, although about the size of his cubby hole back when he was a kindergarten at St. Joseph Hill Academy, overlooks the capital in Washington D.C. Being able to see the dome of the capital is

his daily reminder that his job is for the people. We were all honored to have Congressman McMahon visit our school, or as Mr. Mariano mentioned "We feel privileged, our minds and hearts filled, of someone who attended Hill returning to show us that we too can be successful." Following the Congressman's visit, members of the classes he visited wrote thank you letters to him. The letter were delivered to his local office on New Dorp Lane the week before elections to remind the Congressman how much we all appreciated his visit to our school.

Hill Herald's October Poll

By Phillip Hurkala

To make sure your opinion counts, log onto the St. Joseph Hill Academy website, visit the Hill Herald page, and click on the link to our survey. The survey is safe and secure for all Hilltoppers to take online.

Here are the questions you will see on our link...

1. What is your favorite sport?

- a. Football
- b. Baseball
- c. Hockey
- d. Basketball

2. What is your favorite basketball team?

- a. LA Lakers
- b. NY Knicks
- c. Boston Celtics
- d. Miami Heat

3. What is your favorite after-school activity?

- a. Riding a bike, scooter, or skateboard
- b. Hanging out with friends
- c. Playing videogames
- d. Other

4. Who is your favorite designer?

- a. Juicy Couture
- b. Hollister
- c. Gucci
- d. Aeropostale and PS

Fall Movie Review

By Holly Rae Phillips

"Megamind" a movie about an evil humanoid who defeats his super hero nemesis and becomes a good guy. He finds his life meaningless without a hero to fight. After Megamind kills Metroman, he becomes bored and tries to create another good superhero to fight, Tighten, who unexpectedly becomes a villain. Megamind then has to save the world.

The main characters are played by Will Ferrell (Megamind), Tina Fey (Roxanne), Jonah Hill (Tighten), and Brad Pitt (Metro Man).

This movie is funny for people of any age because its comical script and it's themes will appeal to adults and kids. The animation of the characters are great because the characters move in life-like ways and are cartoon-like at the same time (similar to the animation in the Toy Story movies). The voices fit the character traits of the charac-

ters. I would like to see this movie because it puts a different spin on the usual superhero story.

"Want to see" score out of 5: 5.



Visit from Firefighter Joe Gallucci

By Richard Behan

On Thursday, October 21, 2010, St. Joseph Hill Academy Junior High students were lucky enough to meet Firefighter Joe Gallucci. He came to our school to demonstrate Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation, CPR, and the Heimlich maneuver, as well as talk to us about fire safety. Mrs. Gallucci's classroom was used as the demonstration area along with two students from each class playing the victims.

After learning about these techniques, Firefighter Gallucci explained that it is important for his coworkers to know them since they are often the first people on scene of an accident, or fire. He then proceeded to put on his fireman gear and explained the importance of it along with some tools that firefighters use when fighting a fire.

On behalf of the whole school, we would like to thank Firefighter Gallucci for spending the day

with us and teaching us all about CPR and fire safety.



Hill Herald Word Search

The Hill Herald Team wants to remind its readers that the first person to submit their correct word search will receive a \$5 gift certificate to the SJHA cafeteria. We hope you are all as excited about this change as we are!

Good luck everyone!

The Hill Herald Team

To enter into the Word Search Challenge, detach this page, fill in your name and class then submit to the Pre-K 4-1 mailbox located in the general office.

Name: _____ Class: _____

F	A	S	D	F	G	H	J	K	L	Q	W	E	R	T	Y	U	I	O	A	U	T	U	M	N
F	O	G	H	J	K	L	F	P	O	I	U	Y	T	R	E	W	Q	Z	X	C	V	B	N	M
D	S	L	A	Z	L	E	A	V	E	S	Z	X	C	V	B	N	M	P	P	O	I	U	Y	T
A	Z	X	I	C	V	B	M	N	M	M	L	K	J	H	G	F	F	I	A	Q	W	E	E	C
S	D	F	G	A	K	L	I	A	S	D	Q	Z	X	C	V	B	L	N	M	L	K	J	H	O
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F	O	L	A	I	G	E	W	O	R	K	S	R	G	X	R	L	M	G	B	W	Z	C	O	O
T	H	A	N	K	S	G	I	V	I	N	G	H	H	E	B	Z	C	R	Y	S	S	T	K	P
J	T	H	A	N	K	S	G	I	V	I	N	A	K	C	C	M	D	A	H	X	W	F	N	I
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K	E	Y	E	R	A	W	O	H	I	Y	H	E	M	T	I	S	K	A	J	C	W	D	B	A
E	C	O	R	O	O	O	A	I	E	T	G	S	U	B	E	K	I	S	M	R	A	Z	U	T
R	L	O	C	P	M	R	T	T	V	F	F	T	N	Y	N	X	O	K	I	F	S	E	H	E

Created by: Robert Cortes	6-2 gracias	5-1 cornucopia	8-1 autumn
Word Key:	4-2 grateful	7-2 harvest	6-1 leaves
4-1 pilgrim	7-1 Thanksgiving	5-2 family	8-2 foliage

St. Joseph Hill Academy
Christmas Carnival December 3

Support the Hill Herald's
NOOK RAFFLE

That's right! The Hill Herald has 1 Barnes and Noble Nook being raffled at this year's Christmas Carnival!

Want one? Well, buy two raffle tickets for only \$5.00! Remember, a chance like this only comes once a year!

Ad Designer:
Chris Cosmai



Save the Date:
Mother Son Jamboree
Save the Date
Sunday, March 20, 2011 12:00 pm
The Gazillion Bubble Show
www.gazillionbubbleshow.com