

# THE DRAGON CHRONICLE



HOOVER  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

**December 2023 Issue**  
Inaugural (1st) Issue



Please help Mrs. Pilato and Mrs. DeCoux congratulate our first Dragon Chronicle journalists:

*Congratulations!*

Win Aung

Emily Kinderman

Ada Kirsch

Aye Lin

Demetria Marshall

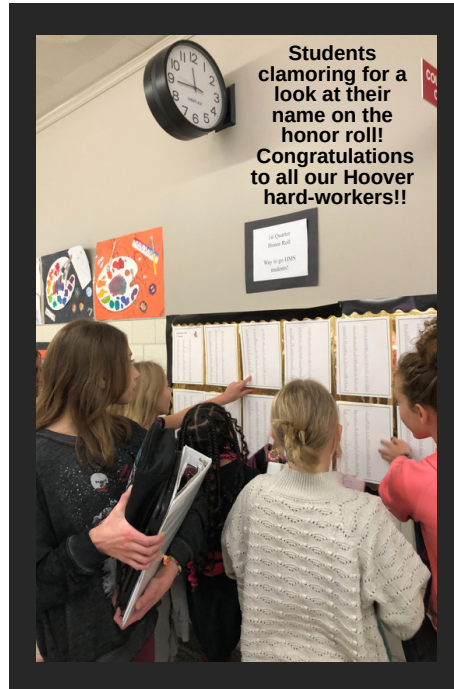
Penelope Nardello

Bette Patterson

Rosheily Reyes

Elizabeth Riggie

Samantha Spin



## Principal's Message:

Miss Thomas Time

The safety of our entire school community is of the utmost importance to us on a daily basis. We continue to encourage our Dragon families to have discussions with young people regarding the ways in which they can help keep their children and the community safe such as:

Remember to use your Chromebooks/electronic devices in safe and appropriate ways. Communicate with only trusted friends you know in person and keep all communication appropriate. Imagine your family members reading every message. If they would not approve, don't send it!

If you see or hear something of a violent or concerning nature, say something to a trusted adult right away.

Immediately report any concern to the school district.

If a safety concern arises after hours, students and families should immediately contact the Town of Tonawanda Police Department or Kenmore Police Department.

Information may also be shared anonymously through the Safe School Helpline by calling 800-4-1-VOICE Ext. 359 or texting 614-426-0240.

Enjoy the Winter Break!

## PTA NEWS!!

Thank you to all the parents, staff & students that volunteered or contributed to our fall events and fundraising efforts!

Support the Hoover Middle School PTA and wrap up your holiday shopping at the same time with RaiseRight Gift Cards!

<https://www.raiseright.com/enroll?enrollCode=7JWQ4ABAR4S1>

Save those Dash's receipts and bring them to HMS in the new year - for every \$1,000 in receipts we bundle, Dash's will give our school \$25

It's never too late to join the HMS PTA. Join us for our next meeting on Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 6:30 pm in the HMS Cafeteria

<https://hmsdragons.memberhub.com/store>

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

12/12- Winter Concert at 6:30

- 5th Grade Band (even)
- 7th Grade Orchestra
- 6th Grade Chorus
- 5th Grade Orchestra

12/13- Winter Concert at 6:30

- 5th Grade Chorus
- 7th Grade Chorus
- 6th Grade Chorus

12/19- Winter Concert at 6:30

- 5th Grade Band (odd)
- 6th Grade Orchestra
- 7th Grade Band

Dates for Shrek Jr the Musical!!!

- 2/1 at 7:00
- 2/2 at 7:00
- 2/3 at 1:00





## A Traditional Dominican Household Christmas

by Rosheily Reyes / Rose

Have you ever wondered how a Dominican household spends their Christmas? My family is from Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, including me. I was born in Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic. The Dominican Republic is located in the Caribbean, a latina/latino country. My family is Hispanic and we mostly only speak Spanish. (We also celebrate Christmas on Christmas Eve) This is a traditional Dominican Christmas in MY home.

How is our traditional Christmas? We spend Christmas on Christmas Eve. In the afternoon at about 4pm my whole family meets at our house and once everyone gets there that's when we start eating. After we are done eating everyone has fun by playing games like Dominican Dominos, and Bingo. We also dance and also do lights out karaoke! Lights out karaoke is when we turn off all the lights in the house and turn the disco lights on. For clothes the men usually wear fancy suits and the ladies wear nice fancy dresses. At 12am that's when we start opening gifts and everyone changes into their matching Christmas pjs! Since we do secret santa every year the adults who are doing secret santa go first then kids.

An important thing is also the music. When everyone dances and sings Karaoke we obviously need good music!! What music do we play? Since My family loves music, we often play loud music all the time and enjoy it. The different types of Hispanic/latina/latino music categories that are most important to us are merengue, bachata, salsa, dembow, and reggaeton. We all love dancing and singing to these types of music.

Lastly but not least, food is the MOST important part of the whole entire Christmas. We eat the most delicious food ever! What do we eat anyways? If you really wants to know; we eat Moro (moro is a rice with black or any other types of beans inside), chicken (roasted), Pernill (Pernill is a type of latino pork), lasagna, Pastelitos (Pastelitos is a fried bread that is filled with types of delicious meet inside or just filled with cheese), Pastelon (similar to lasagna but made with sweet plantains), and potato salad. The desserts we make are sugar cookies, gingerbread cookies, sweet bread, flan ( a carmel hispanic pudding cake), and cornbread.

This is how me and my Dominican family spend and celebrate christmas! Is this similar to your christmas or is it very different?



## Student Council Events

### Fun, Fun, Fun!

By Emily Kinderman

#### Food Drive/Thrill Of The Spill

November was the canned food and non-perishable donation drive. All November, for every 100 donations (for each grade level) a new teacher got food dumped on them. Only all expired food gets dumped on teachers. Over 600 donations were collected and 6 teachers and 1 student got food dumped on them!

#### Minute To Win It

Some day in March there will be prizes and will choose many students to do a minute to win it.

#### Socktober

Team 7-2, under the leadership of Mrs. Bacon, collected socks of all sizes for the Kenton Closet. We collected 1,100 pairs of socks

#### Word Count Contest

Starting November 6th and ending February 6th the winners will be one 7th grade team, two 6th grade teams and two 5th grade teams. Here are some rules.  
\*take quizzes on books you read this year.  
\*read the entire book.  
\*to pass the quizzes you must get a 70% or higher.

Lets see who wins 1 2 3

## 6th Grade Game Night!

by Aye Lin

The 6th grade was having a game night! It is annual and they do it every year. All of the 6th graders were invited. Thank you to the HMS PTA for helping. They're playing games like Monopoly, Candyland and Uno and more! The food options were one slice of pizza, a bag of chips and a water bottle. If you had extra money on you, you could buy some candy! It was on November 8th, Wednesday from 3pm-5pm. If you wanted to get tickets you would have to do it online (HMS Hoover Memberhub Store) Then you would fill out the form. If you could not do it online. It was in the HMS Cafeteria and costed \$5 or 5 Dragon Scales. If you were a 6th grader at lunch you could get tickets on 11/1, 11/2, and 11/3 . You were also not allowed to bring electronics. They also had prizes if you won! They have many more events like this coming up. So stay tuned for more information about events at Hoover Middle School!



## NFL SPORTS REPORT

# Bad News Bills

BY PENELOPE NARDELLO

Buffalove

The Buffalo Bills could not secure a victory in their recent game against the Cincinnati Bengals.

Despite their best efforts, the Bengals emerged as the winners.

We appreciate the Bills' hard work and dedication and look forward to their continued efforts in future games.



NFL Names	Bills score	Other team
BILLS vs. NEW ENGLAND patriots	25	29
Bills vs. Tampa Bay Buccaneers	24	18
Bills vs.Cincinnati Bengals	18	24

## Swifties Unite with the Kansas City Chiefs

by Samantha Spin

Who ever thought that Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce would date? Taylor Swift was first seen on Sep 24, 2023 when the Chiefs played the Chicago Bears. She was seen with Travis Kelce's mom, Donna Kelce. There have also been rumors that Taylor was getting rolled out of the stadium in a popcorn cart. At this point Taylor Swift is just making her Swifties like football and her at the same time, like how did it go from singing to football?



## ALL ABOUT VOLLEYBALL

by Bette Patterson

### What is Volleyball?

Volleyball is a game with two teams, played by using the hand to try and bat the ball, back and forth over a high net, trying to make the ball touch the court within the opponents' playing area before it can be returned. Volleyball is also an Olympic sport, as well played in specific schools, on the beach, and just for fun! Volleyball is the most widely played sport in the world, with the ranking of 5th in the world's most popular sports.

### How do you play volleyball?

To even start playing volleyball, you need a wide, open space. Indoor and outdoor volleyball are exactly the same, all you need is a flat surface and lots of space. You need to divide half of the space for the two teams. In the middle of the divided half, you need a net. Then you have the space set up.

There are six positions on a volleyball court, and each position serves a unique role in the success of the team. Just like other competitive teams, you need to depend on each player to not only do their job but do their job well. Volleyball is extremely fast-paced and requires serious athletic ability.

The most important role of volleyball is the Setter. The Setter does a delicate touch to set the ball perfectly for one of the attacking players. Communication is the most important skill for the Setter. That is because they need to get all the other players on the same page. Without the Setter, there would be no hard spikes or technical ball movement.

The Outside hitter is also known as the left-sided hitter and the lead attacker in the offensive strategy. To be a successful outside hitter, you must be able to jump high, be fast on your feet, and be ready to adapt to different situations. The volleyball won't always be placed where the outsider hitter would like, so they need to be prepared for hits from a variety of places.

The Opposite hitter is, like the Outside hitter, the Opposite hitter is also known as the right-sided hitter. These players need to be a perfect balance of both defense and offense. They'll also get many opportunities to hit the volleyball, with jumping ability is needed. The main difference between the outside hitter and the Opposite hitter is their defensive responsibility. Being able to receive the serve from the opposing team is just one of the many requirements of this specialized position.

The Middle Blocker, also known as the middle hitter, is the tallest player on the volleyball team. Their main role for the team is being the first line of defense against the opposing team's hits. The middle blocker needs to read the other team's attackers to quickly raise his/her arms above the net in a blocking attempt. But, this is not a defense-only position. The middle blocker has chances for quick points throughout the set.

The Libero can be confusing for the non-volleyball players. They can only play on the back row of the court, and because of this, they are the ideal person to receive a hit from the opposite team. There are set rules the Libero needs to follow, such as not attacking the ball at the net, playing a set for an attacker from the front, and more. You can tell a libero apart from the rest of the team from the different colored jersey.

The Defensive Specialist is the (something other than "thing") that sets the defensive specialist apart from other volleyball positions is their ability to substitute out any player on the court. This will count against the team's total of 12 substitutions. The defensive specialist traditionally focuses on ball control and passing and works well with the libero.

The main goal of the game of volleyball is for the players to hit the ball over the net, block the other team's shots, and set up plays. Volleyball is a sport that you need to practice and play to develop your skills and techniques. To get started, some helpful attributes are being physically fit and being able to jump. You will learn over time how hard to hit the ball, how to execute key volleyball skills (spikes, blocks, serves and more), and how to move your feet. Playing the sport will help you develop your reflexes, agility, and communication skills--after all, volleyball is a team sport!

## Sabres

### Let's talk about a couple of the new players on the team

by Elizabeth Riggie

#### ZACHARY BENSON

Zach was playing for the Winnipeg Ice for three years. Over three years Zach scored 71 goals for the Winnipeg Ice.

Benson signed a three year contract with the Sabres. Bensons first game was on October 12, 2023, against the New York Rangers, where he got his first penalty of the season in a 5-1 loss.

OOoh, this is interesting!

Fun fact about Zach, is that his goal song is "Undefeated" by Charlie on a Friday. -is that all one word??

#### DEVON LEVI

Levi played for the Northeastern Huskies. He played for Northeastern Huskies from 2021-2023. Then he was drafted to the Florida Panthers then traded to the Sabres in 2021. Last year he played seven games and he won five but lost two. Levi also won a gold medal in the 2023 world championship.

Fun fact: Levi's first language was English but he also speaks french.

# Interview with Miss Dempsey

by Elizabeth Riggie

We interviewed Mrs. Dempsey about the library, here's what she said:

## Why did you choose to be a librarian?

I love reading, and I love doing research, so being a librarian was the perfect job for me. Originally I wanted to be an English teacher, but being a librarian is so much fun!

## What's your favorite book?

It's too hard for me to pick just one book! My current favorite is called I Am Still Alive, which is a survival story with a strong female character.

## When do you think the library will be done?

I wish I knew! I hope it will be done soon so we can get back to normal!

## What is the biggest challenge of moving into the new library?

The biggest challenge is probably packing and unpacking all the books. We have about 15,000 books, and Mr. Wormley and I packed them all up ourselves. I can't wait to start unpacking and arranging them on our shelves.

## How many books were you able to bring to the library?

Our temporary library only has a small fraction of our collection. We have approximately 300 books that we were able to unpack and display up here. I'm so grateful we have so many e-books on Sora that kids can read!

## Will there be anything new to the library when it's finished?

Everything will be new! We are going to have new shelves, new furniture, a new checkout desk, new charging stations, and lots of space for kids to come and get books and work on projects. I can't wait!

## What are the facts about FACS?

by Ada Kirsch

The fact is Mrs. Rizzo is dishing out the facts in FACS. She is teaching us the benefits of eating fruits and veggies and giving us ways to eat them!

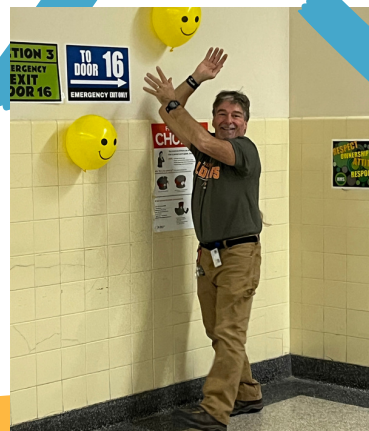
We made smoothies with strawberries, bananas, yogurt cream and milk. While making the smoothies we learned how to use proper measurements and how to use a blender. Mrs. Rizzo said this could be a healthy breakfast and it's really good for us. For a healthy lunch, Mrs. Rizzo did not disappoint. She taught us how to make a green salad with peppers, kale and lettuce and our very own homemade italian dressing. The salad was garnished with her homemade croutons, we don't have that recipe though, it might be one of her secrets.

She also showed us how to turn bread dough and turn it into pretzel bites. These pretzels are not from the freezer folks, WE MADE THEM! They turned out great and tasted even better. Mrs. Rizzo said this recipe could be used for several other things.

The last thing we made in FACS so far was grilled cheese. We used white bread with butter on both side and cheese slices to make it. We then learned how to use the stove and how to flip our sandwiches in the pan. I can see a lot of students using this new knowledge at home.

We aren't just cookingcookingm we are learning about the 4 food groups and how much we need themneed of them to stay healthy and to get good grades.

I think all the students enjoyed the facts of FACS.



## Art with Miss Nightingale

by Win Aung

Miss Nightingale is an Art teacher who teaches 5th, 6th and 7th grade art. Miss Nightingale is an awesome art teacher. She has been working at Hoover Middle School for 2 years! For 5th grade art she is currently working on pumpkins from a birds eye view! For 6th grade she is working on Contour Line Drawing of 3 overlapping pumpkins! Lastly for 7th grade Miss Nightingale is currently working on Watercolor paintings of Birch Trees! Miss Nightingale became an art teacher because of her father. Miss Nightingale's Father was an artist., Miss Nightingale grew up with him and her love for art grew. Miss Nightingale has always wanted to be a teacher, She also loved art so what would be better than being an art teacher. Miss Nightingale loves all her Classes! She loves creating beautiful artwork with all her classes.

She loves the relationship between her and her studentsand. She loves teaching art to young students. Miss Nightingale loves making art with the students she teaches. She loves doing art with all her students.

## INTERVIEW WITH LUNCH MONITOR, MR. VITO

BY DEMETRIA MARSHALL

### Q: Was becoming a lunch monitor your dream?

A: It was his best idea, but his first job was doing construction.

### Q: What do you like best about being a lunch monitor?

A: His favorite thing is seeing all the kids.

### Q: Do you have a favorite kid that you met as a lunch monitor?

A: He doesn't have a favorite kid but his favorite grade is 5th grade.

### Q: If you could teach any subject what would it be?

A: He would teach math because everybody needs to learn math.

### Q: What is your favorite school lunch?

A: He said stuffed crust pizza because of its ooey gooey goodness.

### Q: If you could teach a kid any lesson what would it be?

A: He would teach them to be respectful and polite.





# Music is Instrumental

by Aye Lin

**Band- The fifth grade band** did a lot to get ready for their first concert. They practiced warm-up sheets like First Fundamental Set and and 2 and more! They also practiced fun songs like *Winter Waltz*, *We Wish You a Funky Christmas*, and a fun tune called, *The Addams Family Theme!* It has many different parts from flute to trombone so instruments can all play! There are two bands for even and odd days. They have to practice a lot! The concert day for even day band members is December 12th and the concert day for odd day day band members is Dec. 19th. So, get ready for their concert because ti's going to be a good one.

**Orchestra - For fifth grade orchestra** students to get ready for their first concert they are doing warm-up sheets like note-reading packets! The orchestra is practicing cool songs like *Music to Memorize by Heart*, *Coppycat Concerto*, and *Jingle Bells*. Other songs they are learning are: *Backwards D Scale*, *Hot Cross Buns*, *Merrily*, *Short Twinkle* and *Fiddle Tune Jingle Bells!* That's a LOT of songs! They have many kinds of instruments in the orchestra like the harp, violin, viola, cello, and bass. There are 63 in the fifth grade orchestra group. Their concert is December 12th at 6:30 . I hope you're very excited for this concert because it's going to be great!

**Chorus - 5th grade chorus** is having a concert soon too! They also were having all-county auditions. Whoever wanted to try out had to sing really good. The songs they have to sing to get ready for the concert are *Poor Wayfaring stranger*, *Carry The Light*, and *Winter Sleigh Ride*. *They are already really good at one of the songs!* Their concerts are on Dec. 12th and Dec. 13th. *I am sure the concert will be the best!*

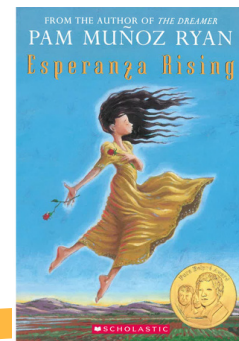


## The thirteenth Cat

by Ada Kirsch

**You Can't judge the Thirteenth Cat By Its Cover**

If I were to judge a book by its cover I would say this book is scary but it's more creepy and weird. The book starts with our main character who is staying at her aunt Alice's new house for the summer. Across the street from her aunt's house lives a strange old woman who has thirteen cats. Readers soon learn that the cats and the old women are a lot more dangerous than our main character thinks. This reader's opinion on the book is that the book's cover makes it look like a horror book but it's actually just weird. This book is weird because it turns out that the cats are actually people who come to life at night and sew for the old woman who is actually a witch. This book is a lot different than what I thought it was going to be. It started out normal and took a turn down a weird lane. This reader would recommend this book if you like creepy books or mysteries.



## Esperanza Rising Review

by Sam Spin

Have you ever had to persevere through difficult times then *Esperanza Rising* is the book for you!

*Esperanza Rising* is a very good book. So much happens in each chapter. If you read the book you will see that *Esperanza* goes through so much but she perseveres. *Esperanza* grew up a very wealthy young lady but when a dramatic life change makes her make a decision to either go or stay. I highly suggest you read this book. Every chapter is a page turner.