

# The East Amwell Scoop

Winter Edition

2009

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## **Going Green** **By: Erica Ammann**

EATS is taking the leap into more green ideas. The students are learning the importance of “going green” and doing their part to help save planet earth. All of these green ideas would not be floating through East Amwell School without the help of the “Green Team!”

The Green Team is made up of the entire specials teachers: gym, art, music, library, computers, and SPARK classes. Also efforts from the academic class teachers were added. They will be doing various projects such as making decorated T-shirts from the student’s already worn shirts to create a recycled work of art! Also happening in the art room is the Art Club’s new Green sculpture created from recycled materials that are supplied by East Amwell students and staff. In the SPARK 7<sup>th</sup> grade class, they are constructing pop-up books that focus on environmental issues such as recycling, global warming, pollution, and other various topics. These pop-up books will be completed by Earth Day- the big celebration!

All of the preparation from the students and Green Team is for the big celebration at East Amwell. The big occasion is the “Green Day Celebration” on Earth Day, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009. At the Green Day Celebration, there will be booths set up for students to learn about what going green really means. The students will also participate in cleaning up garbage from the East Amwell fields to do their part in Earth Day service.

Through “Green Day” at East Amwell, the students will have a fun experience while learning about helping the environment and creating a safe planet. They will do it by participating in fun, hands-on activities and hopefully start GOING GREEN!



## **East Amwell’s Got Talent!** **By: Alyssa Applegate**

Lights..., Camera..., Action! You’ve got that right! On Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, all of the action took place in the gymnasium for middle school kids to take the stage and present their talents to the judges. The talent show acts wowed the audience and had the judges jumping out of their chairs. The Talent Show consisted of comedy acts, singing, dancing, playing the piano, and much more. In the end, it was a tough decision for the judges to deliberate on which act earned the most applause from the audience, but there had to be a victorious winner. Here are the following placements: 3<sup>rd</sup> place- Chinnagins by Anna Helfrich, Annie Hajak, and Emily Marturano. This was a comedy act that had the audience as well as the judges on the floor cracking up! 2<sup>nd</sup> place was Kristina L. singing “What It means to be a Friend.” And in first place, Deena Cahill with “Me and My Dress,” singing and playing the piano. Her act and voice had the crowd in awe and left them speechless when she finished. Deena was actually very surprised when she took the 1<sup>st</sup> place prize. She told us, “I was so happy when I found out that I won for the second year in a row! I honestly thought the dancers would have a shot at winning this year, but it surprised me when the judges called my name.” There was also an honorable mention awarded to Alyssa Applegate and Leanne Musto for dancing to “Follow Me.” Fantastic job to all the winners, and outstanding effort to everyone who participated in the show! To wrap it up, East Amwell has a lot of hardworking, talented kids that are willing to take risks and jump out there and show the school what talents they possess. The Talent Show was a great opportunity for this, and hopefully in the upcoming years at East Amwell, there will be more talent shows to come!

## **Hugs and Kisses**

**By: Cassidy Hubert**

Love is in the air! The Student Council's annual Valentine's Day Dance definitely helped to put it there. The dance was held on Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. Despite superstitious beliefs, the dance was in celebration of Valentine's Day and was very romantic. The dance began at 7:30 pm and ended at 9:30 pm. All 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students were allowed to go as long as they paid the entrance fee of \$3.00 with a two liter bottle of soda and \$5.00 without one. This is the only semi-formal dance that is held all year, so it is easy to understand why students were so excited about it. The 7<sup>th</sup> graders were definitely quite a bit more excited than the 8<sup>th</sup> graders because this was their first semi-formal dance and the only time they got to get to dress-up for a dance all year. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders have the formal Dinner Dance Cruz at the end of the year so they have that to look forward to also.



Because the dance was semi-formal it wasn't exactly be the students' normal attire. Most of the boys wore dress pants and the girls wore party or evening dresses. They were mostly knee-length dresses. All these students danced the night away, but not completely alone of course. Although the dance was run by students for students, there were, of course, teacher chaperones. These included Mr. Casella, Mrs. Smith, Miss Critelli, and Miss Kulis. Mr. Drosnock was also there taking pictures. A D.J. was hired by the Student Council to entertain the students throughout the night. A little music, some snacks, beautiful dresses, and balloons were all the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders at East Amwell Township School needed to have a night to be remembered at the Valentine's Day Dance.

## **Roving Reporter**

- ❖ Mr. Drosnock seen teaching self-defense in Social Studies.
- ❖ Vincent Harnett provides motivational homework support in Spanish.
- ❖ Billy Maier has been "blessed" by his teacher.
- ❖ Seventh grade students looking for long-lost candy in Mrs. Higgins room

# FUN AND GAMES

Connect the dots, in order, to reveal a picture you can color!

# **COMICS**

**By: Paul Rallis**

# EAST AMWELL STUDENTS CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS

## Christmas Isn't Over Yet!

**By: Emily McLarty and Cassidy Hubert**

Santa Clause Came to Town! Well, for the kindergarteners at least. On Thursday, December 18, the eighth graders went down to the kindergarten classrooms to help the kids put together their letters to Santa. The kindergarteners wrote about what they like to do, what they want for Christmas, what they want Santa to bring their families, and questions they have for Santa. Since the kindergarteners were so unselfish and asked Santa to bring things for their families and the eighth graders donated their time to helping the kindergarteners, they all made it onto the Nice List.

Later that day, the eighth graders mailed the letters off to Santa. We all know how busy Santa is that time of year, so when the eighth graders got letters back in response, they had been written by some of his top elves as a favor. The letters came in a giant envelope filled with glitter. The eighth graders gave it to Mr. Capuano who brought it down to the kindergarteners. They were all very happy and excited when they got to open the envelope. Each letter was just right for the child who got it. It's as if the elves had met each and every kindergartener before. It looks like it turned out to be a very Merry Christmas for all the East Amwell students.

## Favorite Holiday Movies

**By: Taylor Glinane**

A lot of people enjoy shows and movies to get them into the holiday spirit. And although the Grinch's heart was 3 sizes too small, Jessie Cavallaro (7<sup>th</sup> grade) and Alex Lavalley (8<sup>th</sup> grade) have hearts big enough to LOVE this Christmas movie. Alex even told us that it was probably the first Christmas movie he has ever seen, and that that's why he's such a fan of the original "How The Grinch Stole Christmas" movie. "Rudolph the Red- Nosed Reindeer" stole 3<sup>rd</sup> grader, Jacqueline McBride's heart. "I like it 'cause I like Rudolph," says Jacqueline. Brian Ciarrocca (5<sup>th</sup> grade) was intrigued by one of Santa's helpers in a movie called "Elf". "Elf" is a very funny movie (according to Brian) about an overgrown elf leaving the North Pole for the

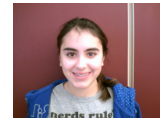
first time to find his father. Casey Cavallaro, also in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, is a sucker for comedies as well. Her favorite holiday movie is called "Holiday in Handcuffs" and she says it's hilarious. Another "hot" movie that 3<sup>rd</sup> grader, Ryan Glinane loves is "The Year Without A Santa Clause" with the Heatmizer. Ryan said, "It's my favorite because I like the Heatmizer because he controls the heat and has cool hair." You've probably heard of the hit movie "Charlie Brown's Christmas". Well, Mikey and Jason Rizza sure have! They even voted it their favorite Christmas movie! Those are just 6 movies that people love to watch during the holiday seasons, and I'm sure there's many more.

## What's Your Favorite Holiday Tradition?

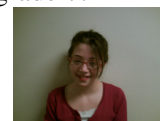
**By: Anna Helfrich**



"My Favorite Holiday Tradition would be when we first get our Christmas tree, my mom and I blast holiday music through the house, and then we decorate the whole tree!" said Annie Hajek, grade 7.



"My Favorite Holiday Tradition is after we eat ham, we all gather around and watch the Grinch!" said Jessica Cavallaro, grade 7.



"My favorite Holiday Tradition is my family and I go to a Christmas Eve party and then we have a New Years party!" responded Haley Isabella, grade 6.



"Putting the star up on Christmas!" said Emily Galik, grade 4.



"Gathering with family and friends, and eating a ton of food!" said Mr. Colt.

## **Frosty's Workshop**

**By: Sara Galik**

On Friday, December 12, 2008, The annual Frosty's Workshop took place in the East Amwell Township School gym. Every year East Amwell families, classes, and community groups make many Christmas crafts and sell them here. Many different parents give up their day to help work at this workshop. All the money goes to the school funds. Kids bring in money and buy various items and ornaments to give to their loved ones as Christmas presents.

Throughout the day, K-8 classrooms headed down to the gym to make their own purchases. There were many things sold there. There were gifts for everyone on your list. There was stuff for moms, dads, grandparents, sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles, cousins, and even pets.

There were lots of items that showed school spirit like scarves and ornaments. Also sold there, were key chains, jewelry, paperweights, and picture holders. For pets, there were treats and chew toys.

It was a cold, yet cheerful morning. Earlier, at 9 'o clock am, the fire alarm went off and all the kids inside East Amwell Township School crowded out the doors and gathered outside near the main, blue playground. This was just a practice drill that happens twice a month which actually was a cover up for a big surprise that was about to happen. All the students were waiting outside and anticipating the coming of Santa.

Every year he arrives in a different way. Last year, he arrived by motorcycle. Ahead of Santa's motorcycle were 9 motorcyclists wearing antlers on their own motorcycles. The one in front had a red headlight. He was Rudolph, leading the way. This year, however, Santa decided to arrive in a bright red convertible pulled by one of his elves. All the kids' faces lit up when they caught a glimpse of this jolly old man.

In the far corner of the gym, there was a fantastic train set going around a track and a miniature village. Next to that, was Santa himself! For one dollar you could get a picture with him and then you would get a candy cane from him. His helpers would paste your picture into a beautiful card for you to take home.



## **Santa Arrives at East Amwell**

**By: Carolyn Rizza**

Ho Ho Ho! On December 12, 2008, Santa arrived at the school with a big smile on his face and looking oh so jolly!

Santa arrived in a 1950s red Thunderbird driven by elf, Mr. Mario Serinese. When Santa got out of the car, he greeted all the children outside. In the gym, for Frosty's, he got his picture taken with many kids. Santa said, "Coming to East Amwell School and seeing all the children is my favorite part of Christmas!"

Santa's annual arrival makes children even more excited to wake up and look under the tree on Christmas morning! "It was pretty sweet," said Gina Hadam, 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

Prior to December 12, I interviewed several teachers to see how they THOUGHT Santa was going to arrive this year. "I think Santa is coming by teleportation; a little known fact is that Santa is a Trekkie. Therefore he will teleport," said Mr. Shuler.

"I think he's coming by a boat that's on a trailer," said Ms. Falivene.

"I think Santa is going to come down a slide on a sled with all the reindeer in a big bowl of white, fluffy marshmallows, said Ms. Ernst.

Ms. Critelli replied, "I think Santa is going to skydive." Well good guessing! Those would be cool.

"Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night," states Santa.



## **Cougars Roar- And Share**

**By: Erica Ammann**

“Let’s go in this aisle...Found the dolls!...Games over here...”On December 9<sup>th</sup>, Toys R Us was packed with “Santa’s helpers” from East Amwell Township School. EATS annual Cougar Share Drive to benefit kids was back in action this holiday season. All of the kids enjoyed a fun time, sleigh bells jingling, and Christmas carols playing. What student thought he’d have a chance to go to Toys R Us on a field trip?

The Cougar Share Holiday Drive is a fundraiser that collects donations for EATS students to shop for holiday gifts for needy children in the Hunterdon County area. A couple of students are selected from each class to go shopping and EATS Peer Leaders assist the younger shoppers. Each classroom receives a child’s first name and age to shop for. The class then creates a list for the designated shoppers to use as a guideline while shopping. The total donations are equally divided and each portion becomes the spending budget for the shoppers. This year about \$4,300 were collected for the Cougar Share Drive- a large shopping budget! Each class received \$65 to spend on their “shopping spree”.

On this exciting day, right after the first period bell rang, the shoppers crowded onto the busses. Once they were at Toys R Us, there was much enthusiasm floating throughout the store. Toys R Us was a melee of fun, and the aisles were packed with EATS shoppers in Santa hats. Kindergarten shopper Natalia Zamora said that she had a lot of fun on the trip. She stated, “My favorite part was shopping for the toys, and the dinosaur toy was the best one!” The peer Leaders assisting Natalia shop were Sara Galik and Erin Ciarrocca, both 7<sup>th</sup> graders. Erin Ciarrocca stated that the trip was, “Fun and pretty easy shopping with the student. It was fun to see how excited the kids were to visit Toys R Us on a school day!” All of the shoppers had a great experience and were walking through the aisles hoping to find the perfect gift. Once the carts were full and the final purchases were made, the busses were loaded again. After the drive the shoppers were back at EATS and were eager to show their classmates their finds.

Later that week the gifts were wrapped and sent to the families. EATS had another successful year with the Cougar Share Drive and our school made many more children happy and joyful during the holiday season. This fundraiser really demonstrated how Cougars SHARE!

## **East Amwell Environmental Club**

**By: Justin Canterbury**

The East Amwell Environmental Club has really been making a difference to the environment. They recycle and collect anything they can get their hands on to get cash for the school. Also, they do many other things like planting gardens to attract birds and butterflies.

In the Cafeteria, there are a couple of bins where you can put your empty cookie wrappers and juice boxes. For each wrapper, the club gets 2 cents. Every week, the environmental club collects 200-300 wrappers from kids. All these wrappers are made into purses and shower curtains. They also recycle ink cartridges to get more cash for the school.

“We planted a butterfly garden last spring, and attracted monarch butterflies, eastern black swallow tails, tiger swallow tails, red spotted purples, spice-bush swallow tails, pipe vine swallow tails, great spangled fritillary, painted ladies, and buckeyes,” said director of environmental club, Mrs. Ernst.

The environmental club also works with gardens to help insects and birds. They tagged up 90 caterpillars and 82 butterflies. They also made sun catchers for the windows, so the birds don’t run into the windows and die.

“Our goal for this year is to attract more birds to the garden and continue to support the monarch butterflies,” said Mrs. Ernst.

The Environmental Club is really making a difference in our community. If you have any questions about the club, you can always talk to Mrs. Ernst.

## **Spring Drama Club**

**By: Kristina Lachaga**

“The sun will come out tomorrow...” Just some of the lyrics that could be heard from the Music room on Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup>. Girls and boys in sixth, seventh, and eighth grade came to audition for the Drama Club’s Spring Production of *Annie, Junior*. Some were nervous, some were anxious and some excited! After all was said and done, there was no doubt that East Amwell’s Middle School has got talent. As of right now, the cast is to be announced, and everyone wants to be Annie! But remember, every role is important and a great experience. Mark your calendars! *Annie, Jr.* will be performed in the auditorium on April 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

# SPORTS NEWS

## **Cougar XC Team Has Another Winning Season**

**By: Taylor Glinane**

As you know, cross country is a big fall sport at East Amwell. It starts at the beginning of the year and ends around the end of October. Ms. Venettone is the main coach and leads our team to victory year after year. Jason DeWaters (8<sup>th</sup> grade) was one of the cross country team's captains this year along with David Goldstein. "Everyone on the team worked hard," said Jason. Gina Hadam (7<sup>th</sup> grade) is one of those hard workers. She tried her best every meet. "I do cross country because running is fun and it's good exercise," Gina said. Gina started cross country in 5<sup>th</sup> grade with her friend Stefanie Anderson (also in 7<sup>th</sup> grade), and they've been doing it together since. East Amwell encourages kids to be on the team. According to teammates, it's a blast and not only do you get to run and have fun, but you also get to travel to other schools and run their courses and gain experience.

## **Cougar Basketball Begins Another Season**

**By: Alex LaVallee**

East Amwell is home to many sports. One of which is basketball. Our school has two teams, boy's and girl's. Both have an "A" and "B" team.

The boy's team is coached by Mr. Riley, one of the gym instructors here at East Amwell. I had a chance to ask him what his favorite part of coaching. "I like coaching because it gives me a chance to teach kids the fundamentals of basketball. I also get a chance to know these kids on a more personal level. It is a lot of fun," was his response.

Michael Kennedy is an eighth grade basketball player. He had this to say when I asked him about the development of the "B" team. "I think that they are progressing well enough that they will probably win about 50% of their games." The teams practice together and are always there to support one another at all the games. When asked about the leadership role, Michael answered, "The leadership is split equally among Vincent Harnett, Brett Durburow, Ryan Thomas, and myself." We all respect how hard the boy's team practices, but we must keep in mind that the girls practice just as hard.

The girl's team was coached by Mrs. Mandatta and Mrs. Bowman. The team had a total of 15 girls and was captained by 8<sup>th</sup> grades Emily Zengel, Katherine Dombrowski, and Kaitlyn Bedard. The team faced a tough schedule this season, but hard work and perseverance kept the female Cougars tough all season. The three captains all ended the season with over 200 points each. The team credits Emily, Katherine, and Kaitlyn for their constant positive attitudes and outstanding effort.

## **Soccer Team Competes with the Best in '08**

**By: Justin Canterbury**

From the first game on September 17 against South Hunterdon, to the last game on October 30 against Alexandria, the East Amwell soccer team has had a great season.

"We are a well-balanced soccer team with a lot of skilled players," said soccer head coach Ms. Daniel. The soccer team's record was 7 wins, 4 losses, and 3 ties. This is an improvement over last year's record: 7 wins, 7 losses, and 1 tie. All the team's losses were close games—within one or two goals.

"I think we have improved a lot since last year, and we have a really strong soccer team," said Alex Lavallee, starting forward on the soccer team.

This year's Cougar soccer team has proven that they can compete and win against the toughest competition. The team has played many hard fought games, including an excellent game against Readington's A team in the Cougar's first road game of the 2008 season. East beat Readington 1-0; the first time East had won against Readington in years.

v. South 8-2  
v. JP Case 1-3  
v. Readington 1-0  
v. Kingwood 3-2  
v. Delaware-2-3  
v. Union 1-3  
v. South 2-0

v. Delaware 1-2  
v. Alexandria 2-2  
v. Kingwood 4-4  
v. Timberlane 3-2  
v. JP Case 0-1  
v. Readington 3-1  
v. Alexandria 2-0

# WORLD NEWS

## Ring in the New Year

By: Erika Bailey

As you know, it is now 2009, the new year! Many people start the new year with a resolution like maybe to lose weight, be nicer to brothers or sisters, or just celebrate with friends. At 12:00 more than half of America was watching Dick Clark's New Year's Eve and counting down or watching the ball in Times Square drop. Former president Bill Clinton and Senator Hillary Clinton, our new Secretary of State under President Obama, joined Mayor Michael Bloomberg to lower the ball in Times Square. The confetti poured down on all the freezing people in Times Square. Sound makers and people added to all of the excitement and many people just tried to forget all the troubles for one night. Many people hope that along with the new year, the various crises nationally and internationally will end.

It is a truly great time of the year. It's a time to forget the previous year and move on and improve things, and clean your slate for the new year. How did you spend your New Year's Eve? Shooting off fireworks with your friends or family, having a party with close relatives or a big party with a bunch of friends? Either way, no matter how you spend the new year, it is still a great time of year and a great new start to life.

Carolyn Rizza, a 7th grader, has this to say about the new year. "I really hope that the new year will bring a much better economy." Annie Hajek, a 7th grader, also hopes the economy will get better for the new year. The new year is a great time to end the old year on a positive note and start the new year on one as well. What do you think the new year will bring?



## Closing Stores

By: Anna Helfrich

Over the past year, stores in the U.S.A have been closing. Stores like Gap, Macy's, KB Toys, Pac Sun, and more will be having some of their stores closed soon. As the stores go, so do the employees. Most of these stores are closing due to economy problems. Keep in mind some of the tips to help save some money during the store closings. First, don't buy many gift cards since the store you buy it for might be closing, and you won't be able to spend the card. Another tip is if you see a sign saying something like, "Everything is 25-40% off," wait a little and soon it will say something like, "everything is 60-80% off." Also, make sure you get the right-sized clothes at closing stores because some clothes will be nonrefundable. Make sure you keep in mind some of these tips as the stores close. Despite the closings, many of your favorite stores will still be around.

## Change

By: Carolyn Rizza

On January 20<sup>th</sup>, Barack Obama became the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States of America. This day was a historical event in American history. Barack Obama is the first African American president. The inauguration was an all-day event with the swearing in began at 11:30am. First Joe Biden, was sworn in as Vice President. Afterward, Barack Obama was sworn in as President with his wife, Michelle Obama, holding the Bible. It was a chilling moment in history. Over a million people were watching this amazing moment on live television or in-person in Washington DC. After he was sworn in, President Obama gave a powerful speech. "We're not black and white; we're red, white and blue!" stated President Obama. Barack Obama's strong words were inspiring to many people.

# ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## **“Twilight” Review**

**By: Jessye Kurtz**

“And the lion fell in love with the lamb.” Would you ever want to read and/or see a romantic, fantasy filled adventure of love, thrills, and vampires? If so, you have to see Twilight.

Twilight, the book, is a captivating story that grabs your attention from cover to cover! In this bloodthirsty story, you get to meet a whole family of “vegetarian” vampires, and the fantastic adventure that follows one of the main characters, Edward Cullen, when he falls in love with an innocent human, Bella Swan.

From the beginning to the end of this breathtaking book, you will be intertwined with the plot! “By far the best book I’ve ever read. Once I started I couldn’t put it down!” said Cassidy Hubert, 8<sup>th</sup> grader at East Amwell.

Luckily, the movie was almost as amazing as the unbelievable book. It’s kind of impossible to compare to the brilliance of the book, but the director did a fantastic job!

I personally, would recommend this book to every person above grade 6. It has a complicated plot that continues for four amazing books. It’s a great story for both boys and girls. A romantic and fun story full of goose bumping moments. I would also recommend the movie to everyone. Stories this well written should be shared with the world!



(<http://images.huffingtonpost.com/2008-11-22-twilight1.jpg>)

## **East Amwell Students Speak**

**By: Kristina Lachaga**

What is your favorite thing to do during the cold, winter months?

“Go play in the snow!”

Gabrielle Ottey, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Mrs. Rogers

“Drink hot chocolate!”

Miranda Wagner, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Mrs. Parillo

“Go in the snow!”

Brandon Diacont, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Ms. King

“Go outside and play with my dog!”

Shannon Bailey, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Mrs. Parillo

## **How Good is Your Spanish?**

**By: Erika Bailey**

Hola = Hello

Como estas? = How are you?

Bein = Good

Como te llamas? = What is your name?

Me llamo \_\_\_\_\_ = my name is \_\_\_\_\_

Gracias = Thank you

De nada = You’re welcome

Que pasa? = Whats up?

Nada = Nothing

Buenos tardes = Good evening

Buenos noches = Good afternoon

Buenos dias = Good morning

Adios = Bye

Much gusto = Pleased to meet you

Que hora es? = What time is it?

Hasta manana = See you tomorrow

Hasta luego = See you later