

# The Summit



VOL.XX No.3 St. Joseph Hill Academy High School December 2011

## Greetings from the Principal: Oh Come Let Us Adore Him

Sometimes during the rush, the hustle and bustle of getting ready for Christmas, we lose its true meaning.

In Saint John's Gospel he tells us:

*"This is how God showed his love among us:  
He sent his one and only Son into the world that we may live through him."*

So whether we celebrate His Coming at Midnight mass, or at a liturgy on Christmas morning, let us thank Him for giving us the opportunity to share in His love with our family and friends, with those who have and with those who have not.

I would like to share with you the words of Maya Angelou from her poem, *Amazing Peace*, the same words that I read to all of you at our annual Christmas liturgy:

*"At this Holy Instant, we celebrate the Birth of  
Jesus Christ into the great religions of the world.  
We jubilate the precious advent of trust.  
We shout with glorious tongues the coming  
of hope.  
All the earth's tribes loosen their voices  
to celebrate the promise of peace."*

Let us celebrate together and may the love that brought God's Son to earth bring you closer to Him this Christmas.

Merry Christmas,  
Mrs. Ferrando

## A Season of Giving: The Poor People's Dinner

By Sara Farley

During these tough economic times, Staten Islanders still seem to find the means to help those less fortunate in the community. Before stuffing their faces with turkey, on Monday before Thanksgiving 700 people of Staten Island packed into the banquet room of the Hilton Garden Inn for Project Hospitality's annual *Poor People's Dinner*.



People of different faiths, economic groups, political parties and professions gathered in one room to support the cause. Hill girls filled up two tables and were also represented at a FOSI table. Some of the Sisters also came out for the poor people of Staten Island. Hill girls often support Project Hospitality through cooking meals and serving at the drop-in center. This is a small act that makes a difference in completing the overall effort of the community. The organization, led by the extremely dedicated Reverend Terry Troia served over 1.4 million emergency meals in the past

year as well as operating numerous food pantries and shelters. One poll in the SI Advance revealed that 61% of Staten Islanders struggled to put food on the table this past year.

The meal was simple but the meaning was great. Each guest received one bowl of vegetable soup, one piece of bread, and a glass of water. Contrary to the lavish four-course Sweet Sixteen meals we are all accustomed to, this meal served the purpose of helping others to realize the hunger issue in the community. Although everyone left with a bit of an empty stomach, they also left with a warmed heart after hearing the guest speakers, an important part of the evening.

Joe Faet was a guest speaker who shared his own tragic story. He was a previous volunteer and after a house fire, ended up needing their services. His heartfelt thankfulness to Project Hospitality was a motivation for anyone to get involved.

Grandmaster Kim, well known for owning IHOP franchises and for his Karate schools, was a major underwriter of the event. He donated about \$10,000 for the dinner so that the profit could serve Project Hospitality. He spoke about his rough childhood in Korea and his

"American Dream". He revealed that Project Hospitality has helped validate his boyhood view of a generous America.

Generosity is contagious. The Hill tradition has worked hard to integrate a focus on community service into the culture and pride of the school. The speakers and sense of community at this event reassured the importance of doing good for those less fortunate. The Christmas Season is in full swing and the gift of giving is in the air. Take advantage of it and do something for someone else! It makes a difference in the other person's life as well as making you feel good.

Grandmaster Kim left everyone with a quote to reflect on how they live their lives, "A living is defined by what you can get, a life is defined by what you give."



Courtesy Sara Farley

## From the Editors

Hi Hilltoppers!

First off, let us start with wishing all the students, teachers and administration at Hill happy holidays and a very nice, well deserved Christmas break. I know that the editors aren't the only ones counting down the days until Christmas break and eagerly looking forward to the time off.

Our staff worked incredibly hard on this issue, hoping to provide the readers with some entertainment over the break. We have some teacher interviews, to get to know the staff a little better. We have many articles about new holiday traditions from around the world, that might just become a new tradition for you and your families. Of course, along with that is a Christmas Coffee House article, preparing all the students for the fun of that night.

Again, Happy Holidays to you and your families!

Nicole DeRosa & Meghan Harnett

Co-editors

Michelle Mangione

Photo/Layout Editor

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### Co-Editors

Nicole DeRosa, Senior

Meghan Harnett, Senior

### Photo/Layout Editor

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## Dr. Hill

Dear Dr. Hill,

I recently got into a huge fight with one of my best friends. Now whenever we

hang out in a group there's awkwardness. I can't believe that our friendship came to this. Despite wanting my relationship with our group of friends to continue, I don't think the girl I fought with and I can be friends again. How can I make this situation better without breaking up our group of friends?

- Friendless

Dear Friendless,

Let me begin by saying that you are not the first Hilltopper this has happened to during high school. It is unfortunate, but can happen to the best of us.



In many situations, talking things out can be healthy.

But if you feel addressing things would make matters worse then you should trust your instinct. I would recommend civility. If neither of you want to leave this group of friends, you'll need to learn how to engage this friend without being rude or referencing the fight.

Carry on with your old friends and engage your old friend only when necessary. When you DO speak be polite and follow the Golden Rule by treating him or her as you would like to be treated.

Most likely, the person will work off the vibe YOU are sending and will reciprocate the same civility. This should make it easier to be around each other in a group setting or otherwise. Best of Luck!!

- Dr. Hill

## The Start to a Brand New Year

By Taylor Davis

Say good-bye to 2011 and hello to 2012! With Christmas only a few days away, New Year's Day is rapidly approaching us! People all around the world celebrate the festive time of New Year's with their own special traditions.



People in Canada celebrate New Year's with concerts and colorful fireworks. People in Mexico celebrate New Year's Eve by downing a grape with each chime of the bell during the midnight countdown, while making a wish with each one. Their families decorate homes and have parties. Colors such as red encourage an overall improvement of lifestyle and love; yellow encourages blessings of improved employment conditions; green improves financial circum-

stances; and white improves health. Another tradition for Mexican families is to write down all the unhappy events that have happened in the current year, and before midnight this list is thrown into an open fire to symbolize the removal of negative energy for the New Year.

In our own country of the United States, people celebrate New Years by dropping or raising an item of worth. One major component of the celebration of New Year's, viewed on televisions around the country, is the Ball Drop in Times Square.

There is an unusual custom in Denmark. Old dishes are saved throughout the year to throw at the front doors of friends' homes on New Year's Eve. It is considered a good sign to find a pile of broken dishes on your doorstep. Many broken dishes show that you have many friends.

It is a tradition in the Philippines that Filipinos focus on all round things. They consume round fruits, such as grapes, and wear clothing with round

shapes, such as polka dots. The round shape reminds them of coins, as they celebrate and hope for prosperity in the New Year.

In the city of Talca in Chile people participate in a Mass on New Year's Eve and then go to visit the graveyard. Once at the graveyard, people set up chairs and wait with the dead for the new year to arrive.

New Year's isn't all about having fun and following your country's traditions. New Year's is a start of your trying to make yourself a better person. New Year's resolutions are goals you try to set for yourself. Some people decide to give up something they love, such as soda, gum, or candy. Other people try the more academic resolution, which is to get better grades or keep up with the grades they have. Most people make the resolution to become a better, kinder person. New Year's is truly a joyous and exciting holiday to celebrate with friends and family. What will be your New Year's resolution?

## Teacher Spotlight: Mrs. B. Alecci 10 Facts That I Know You're All Dying to Know About Hill's Italian Teacher!

By Christina Marie Grillo

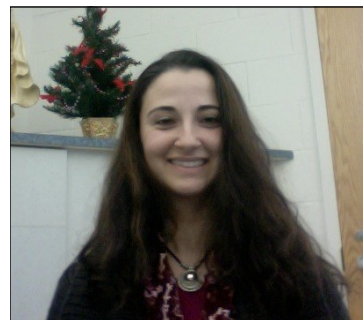
1. She didn't want to leave Italy to come to America; her motivator was her husband (native born Italian). When he found the job of his dreams, she decided to follow him and keep her family united.
2. When she lived in Italy, she had a career as an elementary school teacher. Her main goal was to become a high school or a college professor in Italy, but the highest grade she taught was in elementary school. When she came to America, her dreams were fulfilled, just like her husband's.
3. She has taught a few night classes at CSI for four years, but St. Joseph Hill Academy is the main school she's worked at.
4. In her years at SJHA, she has taught most of the languages offered to Hilltoppers. She started out as the



- Latin teacher and worked her way to becoming the Italian teacher. One year, she taught Latin, French, and Italian! When the old Italian teacher left, she took the opportunity to take on the teaching of her native language full time here at Hill.
5. Besides Italian and English, she can understand Latin and French.
6. She says "It is hard to raise a family and teach Italian to high school students." She finds it harder to multi-task because coming from a foreign country, she had to learn the educational system, learn how to make doctor's appointments, and learn how to pay bills. She practically had to learn everything all over again. Sometimes this made her want to go back to Italy during her first few years she was in this country, but now she is happy because she knows more English and can teach her native language/culture.
7. She has worked at SJHA for 8 years. She says, "It seems like yesterday that I started working here!"
8. With having to take care of a family and organize lessons for her classes, she finds it hard to have time for a hobby. When she finds time, she cooks. She always tries

new recipes. Her favorite times of the year are holidays because she has a chance to cook for family and friends.

9. If she had more time to do anything, her number one priority is to read the same book in Italian and then in English within one year. This allows her to improve her language skills even more.
10. She never really had a reason why she wanted to become a teacher, but she thinks it's the example her parents set for her. Both her parents were teachers and that was the only career move she considered; at age 14 she knew that she was going to be a teacher. In Italy, she chose a high school that fit her needs for her future profession. She doesn't regret her career choice at all; she is really happy and wouldn't want to change a thing.



## All That Junk in Seniors' Trunks

By Nicole DeRosa

Senior year is something that is revered in any high school. Here at Hill, all the Hilltoppers look forward to senior year for the privileges. Seniors can carry their



books in bags instead of carrying them, they have at least one study a day, they can eat during their study and if their schedule allows it, they can leave early some days. Let's be honest, seniors just have it better.

The big thing everyone looks forward to senior year? Driving. Waiting for public transportation in the rain and snow, and then being packed on a bus like a can of sardines isn't exactly invigorating after a long day at school. It's understandable why everyone is so excited to start driving and relieve that headache.

Looking around the parking lot, I

noticed a lot of students have different cars, and of course, a complete variety of different colors. And then I got to thinking: is what the other seniors keep in their cars different from what I keep in mine? Better yet, what's the strangest thing seniors keep in their car? Curiosity got the best of me and I started asking around the Social Hall. The answers I received seemed to get weirder and weirder.

Not all the people I asked have "different" things in their cars. Out of all the people I asked, at least three of them had fuzzy dice hanging from their rearview mirror and some other girls said they had some various charms hanging off their rearview mirror too. However, past that, normal just seemed to go right out the window. Some of my favorite results of this survey were a waterproof picnic blanket, a bat, a black tutu, a variety of food (including junk food and pastries) and a kettle bell. People also claimed to have dream catchers, tools and a garlic shaker full of change in their car. The strangest answer (and most amusing) I have come across so far is

clown shoes, in the car of senior Stephanie Finnegan.

The majority of students driving right now are seniors. However, I thought just to be fair, I'd ask some juniors too. Christina Mazza is going through driver's ed now and told me she's super excited to drive. When she gets a car, she's going to have a Spongebob doll and Michael Buble CD in her car 24/7. Plus, she'll always have a toothbrush, deodorant, nail file and hairbrush in her car, because "you'll never know when you'll need something!"

Personally, the weirdest thing I have in my car is a pair of 3D glasses from a movie and a box of laundry detergent. That being said, I think some of my classmates beat me on this one.



Courtesy Nicole DeRosa

## Getting to Know the Woman Who Keeps Us All Sane: An Interview with Ms. Mosiello

By Gabriella D'Angelo

How lucky are we to be under the guidance of a fellow Hilltopper, who truly has a unique understanding of the challenges students face at Hill both academically and socially! I recently had the opportunity to learn more about Ms. Mosiello, our school guidance counselor since September. She has always enjoyed working with teenagers and young adults in a counseling capacity, because she enjoys being able to assist the students with academic challenges that may interrupt their learning process. She particularly enjoys the guidance lunch workshops, which allow students to learn and share from one another, and is enthused about the environment at Hill as a whole.



Ms. Mosiello is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, and had spent over ten years working in the oncology field before coming to St. Joseph Hill. She was the Director of Women's Cancers and the

Susan G. Komen for the Cure Breast Care Help Line at Cancer Care; The Director of the Cancer Advocacy Project at the New York City Bar Association; and an oncology social worker at New York Presbyterian and Staten Island University Hospitals.

One of Ms. Mosiello's favorite things to do, besides working of course, is watching movies both in the movie theater and in her own home. She finds movies very entertaining and a great source of fun and relaxation. Her favorite place to spend time is at her grandmother's apartment in Florida. She finds it very peaceful because it is near the ocean and it reminds her of fun family memories of when she was growing up. She would spend an ideal day out with her friends going out to lunch or dinner and catching up on what is new in their lives. She also enjoys window-shopping and walking leisurely in the city.

I was interested to learn that if Ms. Mosiello could invite one famous person to dinner it would be Charlie Rose. Since he is a television talk show host and journalist he has interviewed some of the world's most interesting people. She feels he would be a very engaging and exciting dinner guest. When I questioned Ms. Mosiello about the person who she

feels is her role model, she chose her father. Her father has taught her many important life lessons over the years and has always been a great source of support and strength. Her father has a positive outlook on life, even when times become challenging. He reminds her to embrace the good in the world and be thankful for what she has been given. With the Christmas season close at hand, I asked Ms. Mosiello to tell me one thing she would want for Christmas. Her Christmas wish would be to go on a vacation, because she enjoys traveling and learning about different cultures.

I am so glad that I had the chance to get to know Ms. Mosiello better, and share what I learned with all of you!



## Christmas Music Review

By Sharon Thomas

As we leave school for our holiday break we can't stop thinking about Christmas. All the malls, cars, and houses are filled with Christmas spirit. The joy of Christmas music is heard everywhere we turn.

2011 has some great new holiday tunes. Not only are there newer versions of traditional Christmas songs such as "All I Want for Christmas is You" by Mariah Carey and Justin Bieber, but ones that we have never heard before.

Justin Bieber's new album is a great example. "Under the Mistletoe", not only has new takes on old songs but also his

original music as well. This album is Bieber's first Christmas CD. Only 17 years old, Justin Bieber has made a smart decision to make a holiday album. Christmas music does usually attract an older crowd, but that is definitely not what's happening this year.

All of the "Beliebers" were lined up to buy his new CD which came out in stores on November 1 of this year. His single "Mistletoe" was #1 on iTunes in less than a day and features other artists such as Mariah Carey and Usher.

An R&B mix to holiday music was just what everyone needed. Bieber's new music has everyone hooked, especially teenage girls who just can't ever get enough of him. This album is surely

one that will never be forgotten with all the legendary holiday hits.

So get out to the stores, girls! Justin Bieber's new album is a not one to regret buying. It's the perfect gift to give to a friend, cousin, or yourself this year. His holiday music will really brighten up your Christmas and maybe you'll meet someone "under the mistletoe".



## Off Broadway Play review

*Asuncion*

By Anna Rose Iovine

Imagine a small apartment, with a kitchen in one corner, a sofa in the middle, a bathroom on one side and a closet of a bedroom on another. A huge bicycle takes up space, as does piles of CDs and books. The walls are covered with posters and maps of Africa, and for some reason there's a pole with Christmas lights draped on it in the center.



This is the set for the off-Broadway play *Asuncion*, starring Jesse Eisenberg, Justin Bartha, Camille Mana, and Remy Auberjonois. Eisenberg, known for his roles in movies such as *The Social Network* and *Zombieland*, is also the playwright. *Asuncion* resided at the Cherry Lane Theater, located in the Village. Once I entered the theater I could tell this production wasn't going to be

like other shows I've seen in Manhattan. The first thing that struck me was how small the theater was. The Cherry Lane holds less than 200 people—immediately I knew this was going to have a more intimate feel than Broadway plays. Being that the theater is small, the audience is so close to the stage. Even in the fifth row, it was like watching a performance done in my living room.

*Asuncion* centers around two roommates, Edgar (Eisenberg) and Vinny (Bartha). Vinny is a professor preparing for his PhD in Black Studies; Edgar, one of Vinny's former students, is a struggling journalist. Edgar's brother (Auberjonois) visits and tells them his new wife, Asuncion (Mana), needs to stay with them a few days. Asuncion is a Filipina immigrant, and instantly Edgar and Vinny speculate about what she's like. As they get to know Asuncion, Edgar and Vinny realize they know less about the world than they originally thought.

The play tackles issues of race, politics, and assumptions people make about each other. Despite the heavy topics, however, *Asuncion* manages to be a hilarious satire. Not only were the characters funny, but the situations they put themselves in were so ridiculous it was impossible not to laugh. Eisenberg found humor in the mundane, such as buying bagels, and even awful experiences, such as getting mugged.

While *Asuncion* closed December 18, the Cherry Lane Theater continues to hold off-Broadway plays all year round. The prices are substantially lower than that of Broadway: *Asuncion* cost \$76/ticket for non-members of the theater, where Broadway tickets could cost upwards of \$250/ticket. Furthermore, students could receive tickets for as low as \$20 in person at the box office 45 minutes before each performance begins. Now that I know the caliber of shows the Cherry Lane puts on, I will definitely look out for future productions.

## The Road to Nationals

By Kaitlyn Pavia

I think it's safe to say that most Hill students were pleasantly surprised by the cheerleading routine presented at the Pep Rally! Who knew that the girl who sits next to you in math class could do so many flips or shout so loud? In November, Hill's Varsity Cheer-



leading team placed third in a Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) Regional Competition in New Jersey. This spot earned them a bid to UCA Nationals this February in Florida. This is a milestone for Hill, as they are the first team to make it to Nationals. This opportunity brings new challenges and tasks for the team. They will have to make their current routine harder by adding more difficult stunts and moves. They were also told to focus on being crowd appealing, rather than competitive. Lisa Torre, a Senior who has been a member of the

Hill Cheerleading team since freshman year, said, "I'm very proud of my team for working hard and, although these next few months will be difficult, we're looking forward to taking this next step for Hill." We should all be extremely proud of the Varsity cheerleaders and support them as they represent St. Joseph Hill at Nationals! When speaking with Brianna DiMartini, one of the two captains, she summed up her feelings by saying, "I know we can do it!" We wish them luck and hope for a safe journey to Disney.

## A Very Merry Italian Christmas By Federica Bruno

You would think the celebration of Christmas would be universal. It is to some degree, in that Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus and people generally attend Mass. However, cultures are so subdivided that countries such as Italy have varying traditions in different areas within the country itself. Traditionally, Christmas in Italy has been a family orientated holiday and is celebrated within the immediate family. It is also not as commercialized as in America. Roman Catholicism is the national religion of Italy. Therefore, the country is more united in a religious sense. As in America, we have such a wide variety of religions and different variations of Christianity that we depend on commercialism to unite us. Eventually through commercialism, traditions are lost. Italy is



more consist in maintaining traditions.

The Christmas season in Italy runs for three weeks, starting eight days before Christmas known as the *Novena*. During this period in some small towns throughout Italy, small groups of adults and children go from house to house dressed as shepherds, playing the pipes, reciting Christmas poems, and singing carols. During this week in southern Italy, Christmas cookies are made, such as fig cookies and honey ball cookies called *Struffoli*. In northern Italy, a light Milanese cake called *Panettone* is a famous treat during the Christmas season. By far the most beloved and enduring symbol of the holiday season is the Nativity scene, or *Presepio* in Italian, which was originated in Italy by St. Francis of Assisi. It is a representation of the birth of Jesus, and it is usually displayed in the living or dining room.

In southern Italy, the Feast of the Seven Fishes is celebrated on Christmas Eve, which is a dinner including seven different kinds of fish. There are not seven specific fish you must have, as

long as seven fish are prepared. The most popular fish prepared is *Baccala*, a dry salted codfish. Northern Italy does not practice the tradition of the Feast of the Seven Fishes on Christmas Eve. Christmas Day has a greater variety of food.

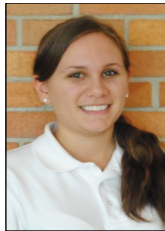
On Christmas Eve, Urn of Fate is practiced. This tradition is mostly practiced in old-fashioned small towns throughout Italy. It calls for each member of the family to take turns drawing a wrapped gift out of a large ornamental bowl until all the presents are distributed. The main exchange of gifts throughout all of Italy takes place on January 6<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of the Epiphany, the celebration in remembrance of the Magi's visit to baby Jesus. Children anxiously await a visit from La Befana, a kind old witch, who brings gifts for the good and coal for the bad. La Befana is like our Santa Claus in Italy. On Christmas Day, they attend Mass. After Mass, they usually visit their family and friends to wish them a Merry Christmas.

## Getting in the Holiday Spirit with Gift Giving

By Ashley Schindler

Whether you're a freshman or a senior, you know Hill is all about charity work and giving to others. Project Hospitality, Seton Foundation, American Cancer Society, Global Vision, and Habitat for Humanity are clubs we have that are dedicated to helping out needy and the poor. In Hill, we have coat, toy, and clothing drives to help the people in need. As many of you know, we submerge ourselves in gift-giving, not only during the Christmas season, but also during the rest of the year. As Hilltoppers, we are all fully dedicated to helping others, which separates us from many other schools on Staten Island.

Two of our biggest clubs are Habitat for Humanity and Global Vision. Global Vision is a club dedicated to collecting money to send to Africa to buy nets, vaccines, etc. for people who don't have the money to buy those things to help them fight against malaria. The other club is Habitat for Humanity, a club in which more Hill girls are familiar. In



Habitat for Humanity, Hill girls pay money and pack their belongings for a week in the summer and head to either Tennessee or Ohio to help build a house for a family that is in need of a home.

Then again, not everyone can take time out of their schedules during the summer to go on a Habitat for Humanity trip, and others would rather see their money go to people in need in America, rather than sending it overseas. That's why we have these clubs and fundraisers and Hill. If you donate within Hill and are still looking to do more, I know of two other great charities that help people in need, more specifically, children and teenagers:

- *The Jeff Gordon Children's Foundation*: A charity started by NASCAR driver, Jeff Gordon, which is dedicated to helping children with pediatric cancer. All you had to do was make a package or "Play Pack" as they like to call it, according to the age of the child, which included very simple, inexpensive items. After going out and purchasing the necessary items, we made up thirty-five "Play Packs" and shipped them off to the foundation.
- *Victory Junction Gang Camp*: Over the summer, I took a trip to North

Carolina to visit colleges and as a side trip, I donated old, unused stuffed animals to Victory Junction Gang Camp. Victory Junction is a camp that was founded in 2004 by Kyle Petty as a free place of refuge for chronically ill children who suffer from a variety of diseases. They receive medical treatment and have fun interacting with other children. I know that these children will have smiles on their faces when they each receive a stuffed animal I donated. To learn more about Victory Junction Gang, go to <http://www.victoryjunction.org/>.

Anything you can do to help others is always appreciated. Not only are these fun ways to get involved, you also receive a great sense of satisfaction once you help others. If you would like more information about the two non-Hill charities above, feel free to come see me, Ashley Schindler, in homeroom 334 or e-mail me at [ashley.schindler@stjhill.org](mailto:ashley.schindler@stjhill.org).



## Christmas Coffeehouse

By Kara Clifford

Christmas is a time of joy and fun at Hill. There is a special tradition that Hill has set up for the students, their parents, and the teachers. It's called the Christmas Coffeehouse and is one of the events to which the whole Hill community looks forward!



As a senior, I have attended the three Christmas Coffeehouses that were held during my time at Hill. The event is held on the night of the last day of classes before Christmas break. The night includes performances by the dance team, the Hill singers, and a special skit put on by the teachers. The Hill singers perform a myriad of classic Christmas carols, which include crowd favorites such as "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer," and "Jingle Bells." The Hill singers do a great job with each song and the performance helps to put the crowd into the

Christmas spirit.

The Hill dance team then performs a magical routine, choreographed by Ms. Ragusa. The steppers perform carry out tap and jazz numbers to popular Christmas songs by Britney Spears and Aly and AJ. There is also a special dance included for the senior members of the dance team. The dance team does a great job to draw the crowd in and get them excited for the holiday season.

The teachers are the last to perform. They put on a skit to try and get back at the students for the hilarious Harvest Happening skits. The skits that the teachers had performed in the past years were absolutely brilliant and had everyone laughing for the rest of the night. One skit that the teachers have presented was "Dancing with the Teachers," celebrating Mrs. Philipp's Super Sixtieth Birthday. Last year, the teachers were split into teams as a spinoff of our annual Color Wars. There was a race down the center aisle while balancing objects on rulers, and a race to grade the most scantrons. They also ran out

shooting the audience with water guns. This is one of the funniest parts of the night and the skit this year should be fantastic.

At the end of the night, there is a special sing-along for the seniors. It is a special moment because it is the last Christmas Coffeehouse that most of us will spend with each other. It is a perfect way to end a fun night, with everyone joining together to celebrate Christmas. There are also desserts and other refreshments served in the Social Hall afterwards. Everyone is allowed to get cookies, brownies, and other delicious foods while talking about the hilarious events that the night held. At the same time Hill families and friends gather in the Library for their own refreshments and socializing. The Christmas Coffeehouse is a great tradition that Hill holds for the students and teachers and it is very dear to our hearts. This is a night that everyone looks forward to and is one that always goes down in Hill history. It will definitely continue to be one of the most exciting and enjoyable traditions that Hill holds.

## HEY SENIORS!

As you all know, our last year at Hill is flying by! To celebrate our last Christmas as a family, come to the **Senior Cookie Night**. Join us on Wednesday, December 21 in the Social Hall from 5:30 to 6:30 pm right before the Christmas Coffee House. Make and bring your own desserts to share with the rest of the Senior class and take home for later!

## Black Friday Follow Up

By Samantha Gumkowska

I hope all of you enjoyed your Thanksgiving meals. I also hope a lot of you went out and took advantage of the Black Friday sales. For once, I am 100% happy with all my purchases just because I really had to think about whether or not I wanted them before purchasing them since their markdown wasn't too great. I did get \$100 boots for \$30 dollars and a \$50 blazer for \$20, though.



It was very calm and the crowds weren't too large. I didn't have to stand outside the stores to wait on line to pay

for something. The sales racks were limited. From H&M, I kept getting e-mails about \$5 deals on dresses and shirts and \$10 deals on outerwear but they were slightly misleading. I went into H&M at 6am excited that I can invest in some dresses and outerwear but that was not the case. There were only two or three sales racks. The outerwear consisted of puffy jackets and full-priced jackets. There were only three dresses for \$5 but they didn't look too good. The others stores didn't have great sales, either. Sweaters seemed more expensive than ever. Honestly, the sales were a disappointment. I had great difficulty finding a sweater that wasn't a dress or short sleeved. Payless, Spring, and other shoe stores claimed to have 50% off all shoes. In reality, Payless had a few pairs of shoes

for 50% off. Most of the shoes were full-priced. You can get better sales on a weekend. However, I liked JCPenney's shoe sales. Boots that originally cost \$100 to \$130 dollars were \$30 until noon. Forever 21 had sales on clothes that were unflattering or completely out of season. I ended up getting a few articles of clothing for full price. Hollister had 50% off everything in the store until 9am. However, the lines were huge. Mandee didn't have many sales but outside the store was a wheel with discounts. You had to spin the wheel and whatever it landed on was the discount you received.

Basically, it wasn't what I expected the sales to be. However, I heard Cyber Monday sales were amazing...