



(Photo Taken by- Holland Herald Staff)
8th grade students perform the 1980's hit song Thriller on Halloween.

Eighth Graders Put On A "Thrilling" Performance

When people think of Halloween they think of candy, costumes and trick or treating. However, at HTS the fall holiday also has people thinking of the 1980's hit song Thriller.

It all started back in 2004 when the first middle school students debuted their version of the classic in front of their peers.

Mrs. Nush, director of the production, got the idea to do the show from when she was a gymnastics club director all those years ago.

"One year the gymnasts decided they wanted to do the Thriller dance as their opening performance. The girls learned and taught the dance to each other. I then took their version and modified it to where I thought I could possibly teach it to physical education class/grade level. I gave it a shot one year and the rest is history," Mrs. Nush said.

This year marked the 18th time that that music video was recreated by the students. The only years that the show did not take place was because of covid restrictions.

About 50 eighth graders participated in this year's performance. The students put in a lot of time and effort to be ready for the final product for the school to see. The performance usually takes about eight class periods of practice and repetition before the choreography is ready to be seen by an audience.

"This year's eighth grade class was able to get the routine down in only four class periods," said Mrs. Nush, who praised this year's group.

The students performed the dance in front of packed audiences in the middle school gymnasium on Halloween day. The eighth graders' parents were also invited to a showing of the production on the same day.

This year's group did a tremendous job on keeping the Thriller tradition alive!

Middle School Students Get in Halloween Spirit at Annual Student Council Halloween Dance

By Ava Cwynar

The Holland Middle School Student Council hosted their annual Halloween Dance on October 27th.

The event had an amazing turnout. 110 middle school students packed the auditorium to enjoy a night of Halloween-themed fun. This helped the organization raise 550 dollars on ticket sales alone!

What makes this event different from the other dances hosted throughout the year is that students get to dress up and show off their Halloween costumes before trick or treating.

Some students even won awards for their costumes! The awards went to the students with the best homemade, creative, and scariest costumes. The best homemade costume went to Christian W. The most creative costume was won by Shelby V. Scariest costume was awarded to Jayden B.

Hayden Z, a seventh grader, not only liked the winning costumes but also was impressed by the traffic cone costumes which were worn by sixth graders Paige H and Rilynn H.

The fun didn't stop with the costume contest! There was also a candy corn guessing game and a dance off!

"I had a great time. I definitely plan to attend the next dance," said Hayden Z.

The Student Council plans to host their next dance in December which is their annual Winter Formal event.

Come Join Us!

The Newsletter Club is still looking for a few more students to join our club to help tell the story of Holland Township School. Students who are interested will have the opportunity to report on stories that take place at HTS and see their articles printed in our next edition. Interested students should email Mr. Horak as soon as possible. Only a select few positions are available.



The Holland Herald



PRIME: The New Drink That is Extremely Popular!

By: Addison Simini

Chances are by now you have either seen or heard about the popular drink PRIME.

PRIME first launched on January 4, 2022. The company has gained enormous success in the first few months of operation making 250 million dollars in retail sales. The company expects to make a billion dollars by the end of 2023.

"PRIME Hydration is a sports drink that contains coconut water, minerals, vitamins, and artificial sweeteners," said school nurse, Mrs. Hirsch. "PRIME Hydration should be consumed in moderation. Children should obtain their daily minerals and vitamins from a well balanced diet and not from a sports drink."

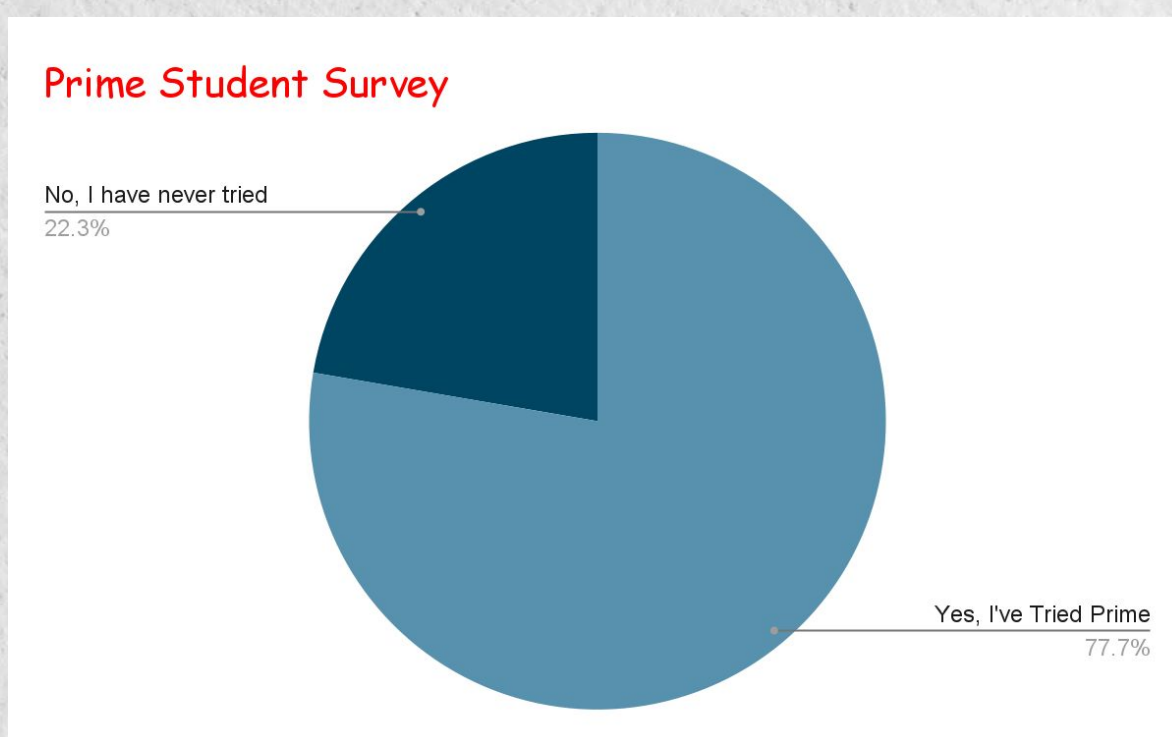
The Holland Herald recently put out a survey for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. Of the 130 students that took the survey nearly 78% said they had tried PRIME at least once in their life.

"Prime drinks have a marketing platform to entice people to drink it. Logan Paul, social media, and advertising make it appealing to children," Mrs. Hirsch said.

Although Prime is very popular among today's youth, about 22% of the students polled at HTS have never tried it.

7th grade student Hayden Z says that she has tried the drink but did not enjoy the taste as much as her peers

"It tastes too artificial and it is just gross," Hayden Z said, who would not recommend the drink to students who have never tried it.



Prime Energy: Not Recommended for Children

Prime has also been making headlines recently over its controversial energy drink.

According to Prime's official website the energy drink contains 200mg of caffeine in a 12 oz can! That is about 6 times the amount of caffeine than a can of Coca-Cola!

"PRIME Energy is an energy drink containing caffeine and is not recommended for children. Since it contains caffeine, there could be an addictive quality to it," Mrs. Hirsch said.

Prime's official website also states, "PRIME Energy is not recommended for children under the age of 18."

PRIME Hydration and PRIME Energy have similar packaging but the two products are drastically different when it comes to what is in the drinks.

"Both drinks have similar vibrant colors and it can be confusing what the difference is between Prime Hydration and Prime Energy drinks," Mrs. Hirsch said.

As more information comes out about the brand it will be interesting to see if the popularity continues to grow among the younger population.

Sports



Members of the Holland Soccer team pose for a picture after their game vs Alexandria on October 18th at Del Val High School.

HTS SOCCER TEAMS PRODUCE WINNING SEASONS

By: Maximo Badolato

The HTS Middle School soccer teams both had remarkable seasons!

The soccer teams are split into two different teams. The all girls team and the co-ed team.

The co-ed soccer team had an outstanding record of 7 wins, 2 losses and one tie.

One of the most exciting wins of the season was under the lights against rival Alexandria on October 18th.

"That was a very exciting environment for our players to play in," said first year assistant coach Mrs. Brogan.

The co-ed soccer team also had wins against Lebanon, Delaware, East Amwell, Califon, Kingwood, and Franklin.

Coach Brogan accounts the teams' success with the players' heart and determination this season.

One of the standouts was Nick A.

"He stepped up as a 6th grader on the A-team," Coach Brogan said.

Girls Soccer Nearly Perfect in 2023

The all girls team also had a successful season with a record of 6 wins and 1 loss.

The girls soccer team started the season off on fire by winning the first six games in a row.

The girls were very close to having an undefeated season. Unfortunately, the girls dropped their last game of the season to just miss out on the perfect season.

One of the standouts on the all-girls team was Evie J who was the leading scorer of the team.

Another player who stood out was Riley H.

"Riley is an outstanding player. She is a great defender, with lots of power," Coach Brogan said.

It didn't matter if it was the girls' team or the co-ed team on the field. Both teams battled hard and represented Holland in a winning fashion.



The 2023 Holland Cross Country team take group photo during the season.

Cross Country Team Reaches Finish Line on 2023 Season

By Nora Dushinka

The 2023 Holland Cross Country team had a top notch season.

The team which is made up of 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th graders from HTS, ran a total of 12 races on the season. The team competed against other middle schools across Hunterdon County.

The team also competed in an all-conference meet at Phillipsburg High School, which is considered one of the toughest cross country courses in the state of New Jersey.

"We have a hard working, amazing, and supportive group of runners," said Coach Deckert

Some of her superstar runners on the girls team were Avery M, Paige N, Quinn W, and Lexi C.

The team also had some strong performances on the boys side from Dezmond P, James N, Nathan K, Cooper H, Dax W, Tanner M and more.

The Warriors also saw a great deal of runners improve as the season trekked on.

"Throughout the season there were a number of runners who showed extreme improvement and got better throughout the season," according to Coach Deckert.

A few of these numerous runners include Jordyn W, Savannah J, and Owen T.

The team has a number of students who will be moving onto the high school level next year and will be looking to add more runners next school year.

"We have a very positive atmosphere here and getting involved in cross country is an excellent way to fit in," Coach Deckert explained.

Cross country is unique because it is the only sport in the school that is offered to fifth grade students. Students who join the team get their first opportunity to represent HTS on the athletic field, get into outstanding shape, make friends and much more.

Sports

HTS Volleyball Rallies for a Productive Season

The Holland Township School volleyball team showed a great amount of resilience this season. The team got off to a slow start and struggled to find wins in the beginning of their schedule.

However, the team never quit and never stopped improving. The Warriors battled back and never hung their heads and finished the season on a 5 game winning streak!

HTS finished with an impressive 7-3 record, including 5 wins in conference play.

Mrs. Beahm, Head Volleyball Coach, credits her team's success to the work ethic and effort that they brought to the court each day.

"Each player took our advice and worked harder than ever to improve. We saw such improvement from each of them," Coach Beahm stated.

The Warriors have 3 players that will be moving onto the high school level next year. Those players include Jackie G, Kaitlyn M, and Serenity H.

"Jackie is one of the most consistent players I have seen at the middle school level. She has consistent serves, underhand and overhand. Jackie also is a great setter who can move the ball around the court with ease. She also can hit some nasty spikes that the other team had a hard time receiving. Overall, a fantastic player," Coach Beahm said.

Kaitlyn M also played a major role in the team's success.

"Kaitlyn made a huge improvement this year. She always was hungry to learn more and improve her skills. Kaitlyn often asked questions on how to better her techniques and practiced hard outside of our practices. She took feedback well and used it to improve," Coach Beahm said. "She also had amazing team spirit and always made sure to cheer her team on, no matter the score."

Serenity H also made a big impact according to her coach.

"Serenity was one of our most improved players. She is a natural athlete that took the coaches feedback and advice," Coach Beahm stated. "One of the most impressive aspects of Serenity was her serving and spiking. She made it all look so easy and effortless."

Despite losing these 3 talented players, the future is bright for the volleyball team heading into next season.

"We are highly anticipating next season," said Coach Beahm, "as we are prepared to walk into the season learning rotations, we anticipate an amazing season."

Acts of Kindness

It's no secret that we have incredible students and staff here at Holland Township School. The Newsletter Club wants to highlight some of the positive things we see on a daily basis in our school. If you witness an act of kindness or see a student acting in a gracious or courteous way and would like to shout them out please let us know. Staff can email us at jhora@hollandschool.org to have students considered for our next printed edition.

Retirements

Mrs. Stow Rides Off Into the Sunset After a Quarter Century of Teaching

This November, Holland Township School said goodbye to Mrs. Stow, who celebrated her retirement from the education profession.

Even though Mrs. Stow will no longer be teaching, she made an everlasting impact on the students that she interacted with here at HTS.

Mrs. Stow worked at Holland Township School for a remarkable 25 school years! That is a quarter century of dedication and passion!

"It's incredible to think that over a 25 year period, she has worked with close to 1,500 students," said 4th grade teacher, Mrs. Croasdale. "Mrs. Stow had a very important role at Holland because she taught the students key communication skills which you will need throughout your life."

When greeting students, staff, and parents Mrs. Stow always had a smile on her face and always demonstrated an upbeat positive attitude.

"She provided a loving, warm, nurturing environment for her students to feel at ease and comfortable as they worked on their speech therapy," said 5th Grade Science Teacher, Mrs. Martin.

Now that Mrs. Stow is retired, she plans on spending a great deal of time at her beach house at the Jersey Shore and with her family.

We will miss her greatly at Holland School and wish her the best!

Curtain Call for Mrs. Daniels

By: Cali Travers

Mrs. Daniels has been working at Holland Township School for 29 years. This month, Mrs. Daniels is winding down an amazing teaching career and getting ready for the next chapter of her life which is retirement.

Aside from Mrs. Daniels role as a teacher, she is also the director of the drama club here at HTS.

This December, the the Holland Township School drama club will put on their final production with Mrs. Daniels as their leader.

This year's middle school play is based on fractured fairy tales. Taking the original story and making it humorous.

She has been inspiring and mentoring students in the drama club for many years, often giving students the opportunity to show their talents on stage.

"Mrs. Daniels is a very experienced director. She taught me how to act in theater. I will miss her," said Christian W, who is an eighth grade student here at HTS.

Mrs. Daniels expressed that the things she will miss the most are the students and staff here at Holland. She will also miss being able to teach everyday and her role as the director of the drama club.

Once her teaching days are behind her, Mrs. Daniels looks forward to traveling the country to spend time with her family. Mrs. Daniels also wishes to go back to walking, acting on her own, spending time with her husband, baking, and cooking.

Wherever Mrs. Daniels life takes her next; she will be missed greatly here at Holland Township School.

Take a bow Mrs. Daniels. You deserve it!