

# Trumansburg Troubadour

## The Staff Slam

**By Eamon Herman and Boden Baier, Grade 4**

The Staff Slam is an annual event where the teachers from all three buildings play basketball against each other. There are three games. The high school is the Dream Team, the middle school is the Doigs and the Eliminators are the elementary school. This event is a fundraiser for the elementary and middle school's PTOs and high school booster clubs. It began as a fundraiser to build a new playground about 10 years ago.

The Staff Slam attracts a huge crowd every year, made up of students, their families, teachers and staff. We spoke to a few people around school to find out what makes this such a

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## The Lion King Jr. The Musical

**By Mia DiLuzio and Allison Latini, 7th Grade**

Do you ever wonder what the magic behind our school's musical productions is? As you may have heard, this year the middle school put on a production of The Lion King Jr. This show took place in the elementary school auditorium, from April 6th-8th. There were a variety of talented actors and actresses that performed.

A lot of practice was put into the preparing of the musical. Faith Flood (8th grade), member of the chorus says, "Rehearsals are very thorough and we do what we need to get done in the amount of time that we have. Sometimes we improve, sometimes we don't." The cast practiced anywhere from one to five days a week. And practices started at the beginning of December. A good amount of after school free-time was spent preparing for the show. The cast of the musical worked hard and put a lot of time into the readying of the show.

A lot of work was also put into the directing and managing of the musical as well. Trenton Laughlin directed the musical with the help of Tammy Parker, who managed it. Ms. Parker organized rehearsals as well as many other things, and Mr. Loughlin choreographed the dancing and put the music together. Mrs. Parker says, "Rehearsal is

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The Trumansburg Troubadour welcomes your feedback!

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## ***Interview with Hanna Hertzler***

***By Lillian Covell, 5th Grade***

Hanna Hertzler graduated from Charles O'Dickerson high school in 2017, and was the recipient of the TCSD Foundation Community Service Award. Troubadour writer Lillian Covell talked with Hannah about life after graduation.



*(Photo Courtesy of Hanna Hertzler)*

### **1. Why did you originally join the Troubadour?**

I originally signed on to the Troubadour as an illustrator, and later was offered the position of Editor-in-Chief. I accepted because I loved working with the Troubadour's young contributors, like yourself, and learning what each of you thought of the latest developments in and around the school district.

### **2. What college do you go to?**

I attend Vassar College, which is a small liberal arts school in the Hudson Valley of Southern New York State. I'd urge any T-burg students looking at colleges to check Vassar out; they give great financial aid and have afforded me a lot of cool opportunities so far. The library here is fabulous; basically a cathedral, and with a great selection.

### **3. What do you want to accomplish in your life?**

Woah, these are some weighty questions right off the bat! At present, I think I'd like to do fieldwork in ecology or another environmental field as soon as I can. I'll actually be assisting in some research here at Vassar this summer on the proliferation of microplastics in coastal soils.

### **4. What award did you win?**

I won the TCSD Foundation Community Service Award, and I'd like to thank the Foundation for awarding it to me. It's gone a long way in helping me to pay for college expenses.

### **5. What are you majoring in?**

I planned on majoring in Biology, but currently I am considering majoring in Earth Science and minoring in Biology, because I really like the Earth Science department. The courses are interdisciplinary to a great degree, and concerned with

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## ***Changes in the Food***

***By Ana Reville, Grade 3 and June Wofford, Grade 4***

We (Ana R. and June W. ) are here to write about the new Food Services Director, Rose Hanson.

We understand that being the Food Services Director (FSD for short) is a pretty hard job. As the FSD, Rose has to do many jobs. School food service directors direct the menu planning and service for lunch at schools, usually public elementary and secondary schools. They are responsible for training employees, arranging serving schedules, ordering supplies, and maintaining food preparation equipment. That's A LOT of work to get done!!

We decided to interview Rose about being the new FSD. Rose talked to us about how you only

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## *Staff Slam (continued)*

popular school event.

Jake Hightchew is a 4th grader. He likes the snacks and jerseys at the Staff Slam. His favorite thing about the Staff Slam is to shoot. If you make the shot you get money. He likes to go with his friends Boden, Max, Cam, and Will.

Will Brainard is also a 4th grader. He has only been in the Elementary School, so this year he will root for the Eliminators. Next year he will go to Middle School, then he will root for the middle school probably. His favorite part is the food at the concession stand. His favorite player is Mr. Murphy.

Carson Hager is a 3rd grader. He thinks the Staff Slam is funny. His favorite player is also Mr. Murphy. He likes the food too.

Mr. Murphy is a P.E. teacher at the Elementary School. He says after winter break he practices with the Eliminators. He says, "I [act] funny to make people happy. There is too much serious stuff going on in the world." One of his famous moves each year is the half court no-look shot. So far he has not made it. Mr. Murphy has been in the Staff Slam every year. He told us that he and Mr. Hodge invented it in 2007.

Will Foster is in 4th grade. He likes to watch teachers play ball. Will liked to watch Mr. Murphy make the half court shot. He likes to go with Eamon and Eli.

This year's Staff Slam was postponed because of a snow day in March. It was rescheduled for Friday, April 13th. The event began with Noah Studevart, a second-grader, singing the national anthem. He was amazing! The first game was the Doigs vs the Eliminators. The Doigs won. Mr. Denmark missed a layup at the last second for the Eliminators. After the first game was the free throw contest. Elementary school students shot from the free throw line, and the middle and the high school shot three pointers. Contestants paid one dollar to play and if they made their shot they earned two dollars. The cheerleaders also gave a performance. The next game was the Dream Team vs the Eliminators. The Eliminators won. The last game was the Doigs vs the Dream Team. The Dream Team crushed the Doigs. Each team won and lost a game so this year there was no one winner as each team won one and lost one game. The teams were evenly matched this year which makes for good competition and friendly playing. The Staff Slam was a great events again this year where everyone has a lot of fun! ■



*Boden and Eamon with Mr. Murphey at the 2018 Staff Slam.  
(Photo courtesy of Leslie Appel)*

### ***Interview with Hanna Hertzler (continued)***

activism/social justice as well as hard science, which I like.

#### **6. What was your favorite part of Trumansburg?**

Oh, man. I think that'd have to be the tight-knitness of the community. By the time I was a senior, my graduating class had become so familiar and friendly with each other, and it was lovely. I also loved being a part of the Drama Club.

#### **7. What impacted you most in Trumansburg?**

Now that I'm taking college courses, I've begun appreciating in earnest the quality of the teaching at Charles O. Dickerson. A few of my favorite teachers were Mr. Bonnet, Mr. Radley, Ms. George, and Mr. Clifford.

#### **8. Was it hard to leave Trumansburg?**

Yes, it was so hard! I've moved around my whole life, but I had no idea how homesick I'd be for T-burg in my first few weeks at Vassar. I still miss you guys, but I'm only four hours away. ■

### ***The Capitol Project***

***By Kiera Burton, 7th Grade***

Trumansburg Central School District got the approval of the public to begin the 'No additional tax impact' Capital project. This project is costly, but will not raise taxes for the community, thanks to funds from the state. It will make long-needed mechanical changes, as well as additions to better the education of their students. The district has been holding meetings for the community to attend, letting them view the proposal for the project. The public voted on March 13th on whether or not to pass the project, and they voted yes! The schools now plan to carry out the plans soon, hopefully to be done in the next few years. The vote was YES- 294/ NO- 90. This project will improve all three schools, helping to enforce the teaching of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) activities.

In the elementary school, there will be many changes with the students in mind. They will be improving the gym partition and replacing part of the slowly deteriorating roof, which the district has been hoping to fix for a few years. They will also be working on fixing ventilation, replacing the boiler, improving emergency lighting, fire alarms, and smoke detection for an even safer school environment. Some improvements will be fixing the master clock system, the auditorium curtains and rigging system, and replace the kitchen cooler and freezer, to provide healthier foods for students, which has been the district's goal for the past few years. Some educational changes that will be made are renovations to the administrative office, art room, Pre-K classrooms, and the computer/resource rooms. There will also be STEM additions, and additions to the Pre-K classrooms, who just became official parts of the school district.

Some similar changes will be made to Russell I. Doig middle school. Improvements to the boiler, heating, and ventilation system. They will also work on fixing piping and Hydronic Distribution Pumps (part of the heating and boiler systems). They will also remodel the locker

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## *Lion King Jr. The Musical (cont.)*

like organized chaos. Mr. Laughlin phases in people on the stage and teaches them their parts. Teaching, dance, singing, acting, etcetera.” So, luckily for the actors and actresses, there is free time in rehearsals. Performers take some time in between their practices to grab a snack or just take some time to relax with friends in the midst of the chaos. Mrs. Parker and Mr. Loughlin did a good job organizing the performance. And the performance was put together very nicely by musical director Nate Parker.

The cast included the same iconic characters as you may recognize from the movie. This includes Rafiki played by Annalee Parker (7th grade), Mufasa and Simba played by Elijah Schechter (8th grade), Scar played by Ellie Zifchock (8th grade), and Sarabi played by Katherine Farnham (7th grade). And you can’t forget about the African animals and lionesses who were an amazing touch. Katherine playing Sarabi, told us before the musical was performed, “I enjoy being in the play, the director is really nice. And it’s really fun to learn choreography and songs. I can’t wait to see how it goes.” Anna, who landed one of the lead roles as Rafiki, told us “*The Lion King* is amazing! I always wanted to see it on Broadway, and being in it is awesome!” The cast members really enjoyed being part of this great production.

The cast members can agree that this years musical was awesome and a lot of fun. The directors, cast, tech crew and everyone else involved in the musical did a phenomenal job putting it together. If you missed your chance this year to either join or go see the musical, you should

definitely go to the next performance put on by the Trumansburg Middle School. Hope to see you there! ▪



*Left: Allison Lewis as Nala. Top Right: Maren Friedman as Lioness and Marijane Vorhis as Cheeta. Bottom Right: Noemi Donenfeld as Timon., (Photos by Ed Dawson)*

## ***Opinion: Against Homework***

***By Sophie Isacks, 6th Grade***

Homework has been something kids have moaned about for years--I'm sure you've moaned about homework, too. Kids today have mind-blowingly hard homework. Most adults don't understand my eight year old brother's math, and it only gets harder as the kids age. Homework is just run-off from what we did or what we don't have time to do in class. Mostly, it's not even necessary. The debate for and against homework has been going on for years. Homework should not be a part of kids lives--it puts a strain on mental health and it's largely busy work.



*(Illustration by Sara Belcher)*

Homework isn't helping kids' mental health--a study by psychology.org proved in 2013 that high school students had the same anxiety levels as mental patients in the 1950s. A study in Duke University showed that "overloading them [the kids] with homework is not associated with higher grades." Along with the keyword 'overloading', "a 2014 analysis from Stanford University revealed that kids with too much homework were stressed and sleep-deprived." Being sleep-deprived and stressed, kids can't do their best work--in school, or on their homework.

Also, homework is largely busy-work, and "Many parents lament the impact of homework on their relationship with their children," an article on from [alfiekohn.com](http://alfiekohn.com) says. They have to play the role of enforcer. Their kids resent them and a rivet in their relationship starts. The negatives of homework are rampant. They include: "children's frustration and exhaustion, lack of time for other activities, and possible loss of interest in learning" (per the same article). If you give kids too much homework, the homework loses its meaning--it's like if your birthday was every single day. Your birthday wouldn't be special anymore. It'd be a regular day. That happens with homework, too. It becomes an annoyance, a bothersome tool that doesn't help to do anything but make eyes roll.

"But homework has its positives!" you cry.

"Perhaps it is used more often to help young students develop better time management and study skills, not to immediately affect their achievement in particular subject areas," a study by Duke University suggested. Maybe homework helps kids with skill building.

The problem is the perhaps--it suggests that the evidence is flimsy and cannot be supported by a full "homework does do this." It's "homework maybe does this."

"Kids who do their homework diligently tend to be more conscientious than their peers," the same study shows. But what if the kid doesn't have time because they're bouncing around homes? What about the kids who are dealing with anxiety and depression and any other mental illness who can't bring themselves to do their homework because it would put strain on their mental health and cause a breakdown? What about the kids who are just as willing to do the right thing, but they don't have the homework to prove their conscientious?

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## ***Opinion: Against Homework (continued)***

There are so many types of kids, and homework doesn't benefit all of them. No two brains are the same--scientists and parents with two or more children will agree--and so no two brains learn the same. Maybe homework does benefit the student, but as a student surrounded by other students, the outstanding majority hate homework with all their extra energy. Almost everybody sighs with relief when they find out there's no homework that day.

By demanding mandatory homework, people pushing for more homework are ignoring every kid bouncing around homes. They are ignoring every kid who has anxiety and depression or any other mental illness where homework is too much. They are ignoring every kid trying to take care of their baby brothers and sisters. They are ignoring every kid who cannot do homework because of their specific situation in life, ignoring every kid whose homework does not help them learn. And by ignoring them, they are ignoring the bigger, silent elephant in the room. That they are aware that homework doesn't help everybody. They are aware that homework isn't a "walk it off," which is what they are telling them to do. And they are actively aware that is happening.

Homework, in short, isn't helping kids; maybe some kids enjoy or need homework to learn, and some don't. So why force too many assignments on kids who don't need it? It's like giving all patients the same medicine. So many people would get sick, and that's what homework is doing. Homework is busy work for some kids, and damaging some kids' mental health. Giving homework to each and every kid will not determine their success in their conscientiousness, or their study skills, they will just complain. So why not listen to the people who are doing the homework? I think they know a lot about homework, as well. ■

***What do you think about homework?***

***Email your response to***

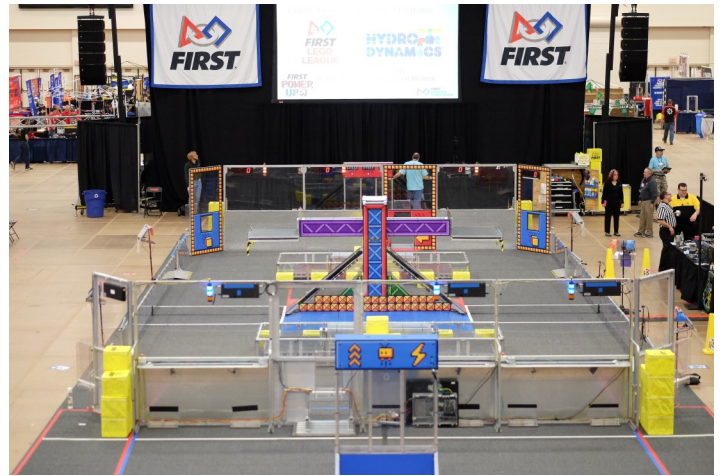
***contact@TCSDFoundation.org.***

***We'll publish YOUR opinions in the next issue.***



## Trumansburg Robotics Team

The Trumansburg Robotics Team attended the World Championships for the third time within the last four years — even though the team has only been around for five years! Team 5254 HYPE was a finalist at both of their regional competitions that they attended, the Central New York Regional at SUNY Polytech and Finger Lakes Regional held at RIT. The team's outstanding performance at both of these competitions allowed them the opportunity to compete at the World Championships in Detroit, Michigan, where they made it all the way to the finals. There are so many different roles for potential members to participate in, from programming and web development to graphic design, grant writing, and community outreach. If you're interested in joining the team, email Roy at [roy@trumansburgrobotics.org](mailto:roy@trumansburgrobotics.org). ▀







## ***Talent Show***

***By Clara Walker, 5th Grade***

This is Agent, Z99Q and I have written up a report on the Trumansburg Talent Show. I think you'll like it.

The lights dim, and the show began. The hosts were quite interesting and funny. Some of the other acts were: How to be Zesty in the Morning, a skit by a group of fourth graders, multiple singers, dancers, and instrument players followed. The interesting hosts repeatedly put on a show, welcoming people to the stage.

Half time comes and goes, and before you know it the last act has ended. The lights came on and the rules for the people's choice were explained: to vote for someone you simply drop a dollar into their box. (A dozen and a half boxes are lined up on the bleachers.) You can drop a 5 too, and it will count as 5 votes. Since I was an agent, and was not here to enjoy myself, I didn't vote. The winners were announced. The people's choice went to a few 6th graders who sang "Mama I'm a Big Girl Now!" from the movie "Hairspray." Sophie I., Maren P., and Ellie G. were the performers. I went undercover to Sophie and asked a few questions about her victory. One of the interesting things about her performance was that her clip on mike fell off. She said that added extra stress, and stage fright, more than normal. They also had no idea that they were going to win. And Sophie told me that she thought there was some sort of mistake. When asked to give her thoughts on the experience, she said "it was a truly wonderful experience to be on-stage and sing—there are so many different people in that audience and people really do connect through music, and I'm so glad we could bring them together. The 3 girls won \$50, a mini trophy, and, you'll love this, an empty pirate! Weird, right? I also asked participant Ana R. one or two questions afterward as well. She informed me that about half of the people who auditioned got in. She also said that the hardest part is scheduling a time in which everyone was free. Besides Sophie, I also contacted Ms. Henion who with Ms. Lewis's help organized a lot of this annual event. She told me that she was not surprised that they brought back judges. I asked about her favorite act, and her exact words were "I enjoyed all of the acts because it's

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## ***Food Services (continued)***

need to have three things at lunch, these three things are, either a fruit or vegetable, a protein, and some grains. Preferably, the school would like the students to have at least two servings of grains such as bread, or pasta, a carton of milk, and either a fruit or vegetable. This is why they always ask us to take a fruit or vegetable.

Our school is involved in something called National School Lunch Program, or Offer vs. Serve. The government will give us money but in return we have to follow their rules, like our meals have to have at least three components to be considered a full meal.

Do you have any questions for Rose that we haven't answered yet? Rose might actually set up an event during the weekend for your very own questions and concerns about the food we eat at school. One question I (Ana R. ) had was, what is up with the chicken and waffles?

Well, many of the places all around the area are serving chicken and waffles. For example, waffle frolic is serving this strange combo, with great results. Rose explained to us how some parents complained about the breakfast for lunch being too sugary for the kids.

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### *Food Services (continued)*

For example, chocolate chips and maple syrup with pancakes. Most of the students are loving the new chicken and waffles.

The Food Services team makes sure that the food the school is feeding us is healthy.

It may seem easy, but with the National School Lunch Program giving them food they cannot always use, serving healthy food can be a challenge. Maintaining the menu in all schools and going around and checking that the food is healthy is a hard job!

We asked some kids, “What is your favorite new addition?” Even though there’s always been a salad bar, two of the students answered that they started going to the salad bar more as a nice addition to the way they eat their meals. Maybe people are just talking about it more.

When “What is your favorite meal?” popped into the conversation, two kids said they liked chicken, one kid saying with waffles and the other with tangerine sauce. The question “How do you like these new additions?” turned up with many different answers but all were positive. ■



### *Talent Show (continued)*

great to have so much variety. But my favorite type of acts are ones that are completely original, meaning that the performer created it all on their own. It’s so cool to see and hear something that has never been performed anywhere before!” She was very nice about answering all of my questions. ■



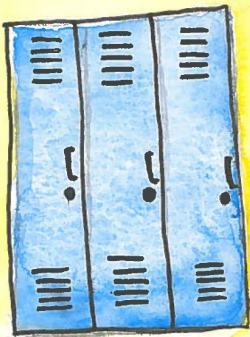
## *The Power of Words: 10 Tips for Incoming Middle Schoolers*

*By Billie Plumlee, 5th Grade*

Okay, so this article is mainly for the incoming 5th graders, and also for the entertainment of the kids older than me. These are some tips and tricks that MIGHT help you through your first year of middle school. Although, they might also turn out to be a complete failure, and then all of the 6th, 7th, and 8th graders will be laughing at me. But I'm going to take a crack at it. Here we go. These tips will be everything from getting ready for school to doing your homework.



1. Pack your lunch the night before. Many people do it in the morning, but you will probably be rushed and won't have time.
2. Don't do your homework on the bus. It's distracting to do it on a bumpy ride, and it will probably result in you getting a bad grade on your homework.
3. Set your alarm for about 45 minutes before you need to go out to get on the bus, because then you will have been awake for longer and will be more alert in your 1st period class.
4. Don't have an activity every day after school. Reserve at least 2 days a week for homework and relaxing time.
5. Try to have a quiet place to do your homework, whether that is when you're staying after school with a teacher or even just in your room.
6. Try to keep your stuff organized, because it will not help things if you can't find your homework.
7. Always keep your locker locked, otherwise your things might get stolen.
8. Take your gym clothes home at the end of each week so that they can be washed.
9. Depending whether or not you do Band or Chorus, you might want to get used to running up and down 3 flights of stairs.
10. Be sure to write down your locker combination somewhere where you will always be able to find it. Although, after a while, you probably won't need it!



*(Illustration by Sara Belcher)*

Also, all these things might not work once you get older, so these techniques will have to change. But in the meantime, enjoy these tricks and I REALLY HOPE THAT THEY WORK.

Thank you! ■

## *An Interview with Mrs. Frost*

*By Ryder Isacks, Grade 3*

Mrs. Frost, Trumansburg Elementary School music teacher is retiring after 25 years. I wanted to ask her some questions. She's been working here for a very long time, so she is retiring. She is the best music teacher anyone could have.

### **1. What are you looking forward to during retirement?**

"I am actually going to school full time to get my Master of Divinity degree. I already have about 30 credit hours because I have been taking one class at a time."

### **2. What was your favorite part about teaching? Why?**

"One of the reasons I went into teaching music is not just music but I like the integration. I like to teach science and math and social studies. Basically I have worked with children a lot of my life. I have been teaching since 1985 and before that [I worked] a rec program in Lodi. I've been teaching in Trumansburg for 25 years."

### **3. What's your least favorite part? Why?**

"Sometimes it's the struggle with the schedule and coordination. Things that people don't realize until they get into the profession."

### **4. If you could go back and do one more thing, or one thing better, what would you do? Why?**

"Mr. Frost and I have been having fun writing additional parts for the elementary plays. I would like to have expanded that more into writing additional parts."

### **5. What do you want to say to the next music teacher? Why?**

"It is really important to coordinate with the different grade levels to keep communication open. And to make friends with the custodian!"

"The reason I have been an elementary teacher was to give the kids the foundation that they need for middle school and high school. That is one of the reasons I have been here. I have continued to be creative and do new things throughout the years. I have really tried to stay creative - I think that's the art part of me. I started teaching a mini unit on the bass clef to the fourth graders to get them prepared for middle school. I tried to fill the gaps and asked myself how can I spiral that even more to help the kids."

### **6. What was your favorite instrument to teach kids to play?**

"When I went to college I was hoping to be an instrumental teacher. I majored in piano. So people assume that you are a vocal teacher, and that is how I ended up teaching more general music and chorus instead. Here in elementary I can only teach recorder, xylophone and classroom percussions.

I have learned a lot from the children through the years. I have learned a lot from parents and administrators. One thing that I think changed my own teaching was when I actually had my youngest son who is autistic, because having a special needs child changed the way I looked at the classroom. I was able to really grow as a person."

"We are now doing a lot of improvements with the twelve park blues and having kids make their own music." Twelve park blues is a twelve bar blues commonly used in general music.

Mrs. Frost wanted me to express her thanks to all the parents and supporters of all of the musicals. I did this article so you would know more about her. ■

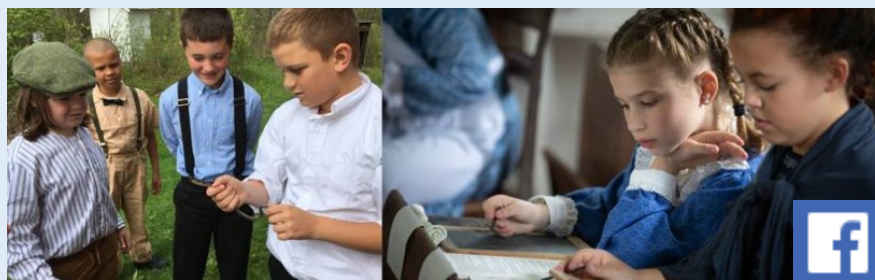


## ***Capitol Project (continued)***

rooms and locker corridors, first put in in the mid-80's. Some changes that will make to improve learning include improving the administrative offices, support service offices, home and careers room, and gym, which also serves as the auditorium. They will also be renovating the kitchen and cafeteria, putting in a patio in the pit facing the cafeteria. Some other improvements will be to the computer rooms, and STEM rooms. There will also be additions to the art and technology rooms.

Charles O. Dickerson high school will also be getting many long wanted renovations that the school is finally able to do with funds from the state. These changes include replacing the boiler, removing the gym partition, asbestos abatement, an emergency light, smoke detection, and fire alarm improvements. They will also be improving the master clock systems, as well as replacing the corridor lockers and the cafeteria floor. Some repairs that will create an even better school environment are a partial roof replacement, and replacing the degrading canopy above the main entrance of the school. They are also going to work on the ventilation of occupied spaces, provide cooling in the IT rooms, updating the electrical panels, and auditorium curtain and rigging remodeling. Another improvement is to replace the district parking lot. Every school has many changes to be made, both to make the school an even safer place and make the education of students even better. These changes, altogether, will cost about \$24.9 million.

The "No additional tax impact" Capital Project has been long in the works, costing around \$24.9 million, not affecting the tax of the surrounding public. The district and Hunt Architects are working hard to better the school. The schools have been hoping for many years to be able to make both mechanical and educational changes to all three schools, all to even further improve the district. They have worked tirelessly, holding meetings for people living within the district area, showing them their plans, and getting their project approved. And thanks to many, including the Trumansburg community, the school's hopes and dreams can finally come true. ▀



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## May Day 5&5

*By Elizabeth Davenport-Rohan, 4th Grade*

This year was the 8th annual May Day 5&5. This big event is organized by the Trumansburg Elementary and Middle School PTO groups. It was on Saturday May 12th. The participants were walkers and runners from our school community. Each year Trumansburg meets the USA track and field standards. The 5k is a fast flat course for people to run on. This race provides results that tells how the kids did in the race or races. There were carnival games and awards at the runs.



There were three different races to run in. One of the races is the Kids Fun Run. The Kids Fun Run is for kids 12 and under. The whole course is ½ a mile. Another one of the races was the 5k Run. The 5k Run was a run for adults and children of all abilities. The last race was the 5 Mile Run. The 5 Mile Run is a recent addition to the May Day event. The winners this year were Tolunay Ayar, Elizabeth Foster, Mason Zoner, Eleanor Asbrand, Eli Lines, and Michaela Murphy. ■

## Eight Square School House

*Photos provided by Jason Koski*

Kids Discover the Trail!

4th graders explored the The History Center In Tompkins County’s Eight-square School-house.

The TCSD Foundation sends all Trumansburg students from Pre-K through 6th grade to a different Discovery Trail site each year for a curriculum based learning experience. KDT! is a joint effort of the Discovery Trail partnership, Trumansburg Central School District and the TCSD Foundation. Special thanks to the Elementary School PTO and Middle School PTO for funding the books integral to the program.

See our Facebook page for more field trip photos of more Discovery Trail sites. ■



## Youth Art Month

By Grace Sturdevant, 5th Grade

This is agent Because 789 reporting back with another big event at T-burg schools! In particular, Youth Art Month (YAM). I decided to interview some people.

First, I interviewed the middle school art teacher, Ms. Kloppel.

G: What are the things we do for YAM?

K: "In the middle school this year Ms. Rowley (who is also an artist!) came in to work with us after school and teach us screen printing. Participating students made some great bags, as well as posters for their classrooms. Mr. Hunkele is sporting one in his office too!"

G: What is your favorite part of YAM?

K: "I love seeing students sharing their hard work with their families at the art show."

G: What is YAM for?

K: "YAM is an opportunity to celebrate the arts. We love offering new and exciting opportunities to our students, and YAM is the perfect time to do that."

And lastly,

G: How can people be more involved in YAM?

K: "Keep an eye out for next year's events and sign up to participate in one of our after school workshops."

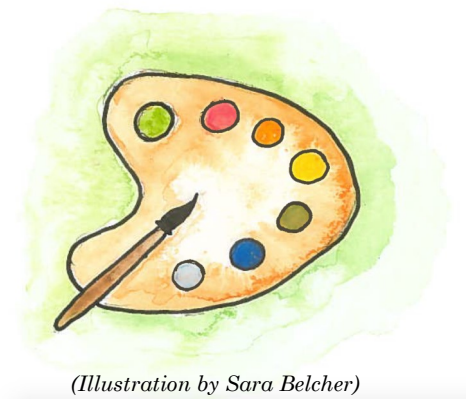
To follow that, I asked some 5th grade students what their favorite part of Youth Art Month was.

First, I asked Lilly Covell. She answered, "A printing event. We made posters and bags."

Second, I asked Billie Plumlee. She answered, "Making ideas for the mural."

YAM features art shows, exhibits, fundraisers, and activities for the school and community each year, celebrating art for all grades. YAM has activities all across the country, but the main event is the State Flag Program. This is a flag design contest held in each state. The winning design is displayed in the Youth Art Month Museum.

And that concludes another BIG NEWS story with agent Because789!▪



(Illustration by Sara Belcher)

**We want to give a special thank you to all of the artists who contributed their work and to the buyers who participated in the TCSD Foundation Annual Community Art Auction. With your help, we managed to raise over \$3,000 this year!**

