

Trumansburg Troubadour

S.T.E.M. and Our Schools

By Allison Latini, 5th grade

You might ask: What is S.T.E.M.? S.T.E.M. stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. The S.T.E.M. movement focuses on students getting more involved with these subjects. According to Mr. McGuire, superintendent of schools, "The Trumansburg Central School District Board of Education and staff want all students to be prepared for their very best future."

All students need to be prepared for a very bright future. On March 3rd, 2015, President Barack Obama said, "In a world that's becoming increasingly complex, where success is driven not only by what you know, but by what you can do with what you know, it's more important than ever for our youth to be

equipped with the knowledge and skills to solve tough problems, gather and evaluate evidence, and make sense of information." It is important for students to be entrusted with S.T.E.M. subjects at an early age. Students can then become interested in S.T.E.M. subjects and become doctors, engineers, and so on. Students that decide to have a career in S.T.E.M. are benefitting the



U.S. by giving us one more person in those careers. All students should be able to have a healthy education and have a career in whatever they are interested in.

The Trumansburg School District has many S.T.E.M. offerings. Several of Tru-

mansburg's teachers are involved with S.T.E.M. According to Mr. McGuire, "Our elementary school teachers are utilizing a S.T.E.M. curriculum called Project Lead the Way in most of our classrooms this year." Also, the middle school teachers planned an all-school S.T.E.M. Career Day on April 22nd, where over 35 presenters talked about how their jobs relate to S.T.E.M. education. Students also got to ask questions. Mr. McGuire also said, "We are getting ready to pilot F.O.S.S. (Full Option Science Systems) interactive science modules at our middle school. F.O.S.S. modules provide everything needed for a science unit in a large box." Trumansburg also has a district S.T.E.M. Committee with participation by teachers, principals, Board of Education members, community members, and our district leadership team. Our school is very involved with S.T.E.M.

Trumansburg has even more

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The *Trumansburg Troubadour*
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Composting: A Breakdown of your Food Scraps'

Breakdown

By Jessica Proctor, 11th grade

Most of the Trumansburg community is aware of the composting in our school district. Many, however, don't know details behind this process. Is compost just another form of garbage? Where does it go? What's the point anyway? I sat down with my mother, Mary Proctor, co-owner of Cayuga Compost, to answer many of these questions.

"Compost is not garbage. It is a greener alternative to throwing out your food scraps," Proctor stated. Since taking over the area's compost responsibilities from

the Cayuga Nature Center in 2005, Cayuga Compost has diverted over 20,000 tons of food scraps and yard trimmings from the landfill! Over the year following the collection of these items, they are broken down in a rich soil. However, not everything should be thrown into the compost pile. "We have a huge problem with contaminants in our compost," Proctor said. "Any material that will not decompose in the composting process falls under this category: plastics, Styrofoam, metals and glass." All contaminants must be removed by hand from the finished product by employees or even members of the Proctor family (including this writer).

Our school district is no exception to this looming issue. Common contaminants from Trumansburg Schools are condiment packages, milk cartons and straws. These items and many more will not break down and therefore must be picked from the product. Another common enemy of compost is Greenware



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Marvelous Makayla's Works of Art

By Bailey Baier, 3rd grade

One Spring day in April, I was lucky enough to meet Makayla Bunce, an almost 18-year-old Trumansburg High School senior. She is an incredible poet and artist. Makayla uses art and poetry to express her thoughts and feelings. Makayla started making art when she was 3 years old.

"My parents were always super into art, they both love it. They've both always been artists kind of, so they were always having me paint as a kid and do all sorts of crafts," Makayla told me. That was how Makayla started doing art.

Makayla started writing poetry just this year, as a way to deal with her emotions and the daily life of a high school student. Although she only just started writing poetry a few months ago, she is already very talented at it. Lately Makayla's poetry has been about her father, who was her biggest inspiration. He passed away recently, and her poetry and art have helped her get through this tough time. Makayla said, "Writing is a good way to get stuff out." Makayla's dad was really the person who made her an artist. He really enjoyed all of her paintings and poems.

When I interviewed Makayla, she was generous with her time and thoughts, so I got to learn about her and she inspires me. I hope the people who read this article will learn from Makayla too, and be inspired to do their own art. Here are some questions I asked Makayla:

BB: What does art mean to you?

MB: It's everything to me. It's all the good and all the bad. It's just the most beautiful way to express yourself, I think.

BB: What kind of art do you focus on?

MB: I'm a big fan of most types of art

but I really enjoy painting and drawing. Acrylic paint is my favorite. I also do some oil paint sometimes.



"Bleeding Mountain"
by Makayla Bunce

BB: Painting and drawing are my favorite types of art too. Where do you get your ideas from and what do you look at that makes you think about art?

MB: Whenever I start painting, a lot of it is impulsive. I'll just put the brush in a color and start going without really an idea in my head, and let it just form as it happens, unless it is part of my school assignments and then I know what I have to do and follow the lines. But my own stuff, a lot of it is from my dreams. I have very funny, weird dreams, very crazy stuff. So I always like to try to put that whole world back onto canvas so I can see it.

BB: I like painting stuff that I imagine and dream about too. What is your favorite poem that you wrote?

MB: I've written around 63 poems by now. There are so many I can hardly keep track. But my favorite poem that is coming to mind right now is called "The Colors I Am."

This is Makayla's favorite poem because she likes the colors and the way it was written. This was only the third poem she had ever written, and she feels like it really represents her.

The Colors I Am

by Makayla Bunce

*I am blue
Some days muted
I sunbathe in grayscale light
Where faded skies
Coat my lens
And I can feel the cold
In every fingertip touch
That timidly reaches for warmth
Grasping for any yellow rays of sun
Daily I whisper shadow prayers
For the graze of a flame amidst my existence
Anything that might enhance the
Shallow saturation surrounding me*

BB: That poem is beautiful. Why is it your favorite poem?

MB: A lot of my poetry, I put color into it. I feel like that color aspect is what represents who I am and how I think. I like the way I wrote it and I think it is one of the better ones.

BB: I like that poem. What is your favorite painting or drawing and why?

MB: I try to name most of my pieces. My favorite is one called "Bleeding Mountain." It's my favorite because it was a very spontaneous creation. It's small but one of the more high-quality paintings that I've done. And I like the

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S.T.E.M. and Our Schools (continued)

plans to create more S.T.E.M. opportunities. On April 11th, our Board of Education approved the 2016-2017 budget, which was voted on and approved by the community on May 17th. Mr. McGuire said, "The budget provides additional funding to support S.T.E.M. across our district in the ways described above. (Project Lead the Way, F.O.S.S., Project Based Learning, etc.)" Also, last year, our high school Robotics Team, which competes in the spring, was honored to qualify for Nationals in St. Louis this year. Our middle school also has what we call "MakerSpace" in the library, where students can explore S.T.E.M. activities after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Trumansburg has a lot of new S.T.E.M. opportunities.

You can be involved with S.T.E.M. in many ways. First, high school and middle school teachers are involved with S.T.E.M. through courses they teach,

such as the high school Introduction to Computer Science, all of our middle and high school science and math courses, several of our high school Career and Tech courses, and our middle school Career and Tech classes. And, in most elementary classrooms, Project Lead the Way is being used. Also, you could be part of MakerSpace or you could join Robotics Club. Any classroom lesson based on science, math, engineering, or technology should be considered to be a part of our S.T.E.M. program at Trumansburg.

S.T.E.M. is happening all over Trumansburg schools. Any person teaching or learning about S.T.E.M. subjects is considered part of it. Science, technology, engineering, and math are all things that could be part of your future. ■

Thank you Art Show and Art Auction Contributors!

The TCSD Foundation is proud to have once again sponsored Youth Art Month in our schools this past March, which culminated in the 2016 Art Show and Art Auction on March 31st. This evening has become a highlight of the year for many, who leave with treasured pieces of art made by local artists and students. With generosity and time given by community volunteers, art teachers, custodial staff, and many donations of artwork to the auction, we raised over \$2,600!

The art auction was made possible through 80 donations of art from over 50 students and community artists, including multiple donations by Ian Connerty, Joan Melvin, Denise Melito, Alice Mulbeck, Nancy Boyce, Kate Sinko, Ellen Pennock, and Sara Apker. We would like to thank all community members who attended and/or donated art, our charming auctioneer Chris Wofford, and Good to Go! for helping make this a fun and successful event and fundraiser.

Robotics

By Josiah Garrison, 4th grade

What is Robotics? What do you do in the club? Is there a competition? There must be 1,000,000 questions flying through your head about Robotics. I will answer some of them.

Robotics is a program that teaches kids about building and programming. Trumansburg Robotics is part of the FIRST Lego League (FLL). FIRST stands for “For Innovation and Recognition in Science and Technology.” The FIRST Lego League is for kids in grades 4-8 and teams can have up to 10 kids on each team. The season starts in August and kids are given 10 weeks to build and program a robot for competition. “It is a fun experience,” says Anthony Blomquist, a fourth grader.

I interviewed James Perkins, a high school teacher and Robotics coach for the high school team. I asked him about the competition. “Do you want them to learn or win the competition?” I asked. He said both. Mr. Perkins said the target is for them to win but it is also about getting them to learn about programming and building. He said that the “real goal is to foster challenge and real engineering, programming, media production, community outreach, data collection and management experiences.”

It seems really challenging to

coach students in Robotics. I asked him what was the most challenging part. “The most challenging part, as a coach, is to balance my school job with my life job and my family responsibilities and my role as a coach with the team....The hardest part in working directly with the students is not throwing the answer to the problem out there, but to encourage them to seek the best solutions on their own.”

I asked Anthony some questions about the elementary school FIRST Lego League. My first question was: “What was the easiest part of building a robot?” His response was: “I think it was putting the small things together... Like putting the wheels together.” I also asked him what was most challenging for him personally and he said “It was probably understanding what my teammates meant.”

I can infer that Robotics was complicated and enjoyable for this fourth grader. Each November, the kids compete with their teammates and their robots to complete missions. The teams compete in Rochester. Last year’s competition was on November 12th 2015. This team came in seventh place, pretty good for an all-rookie team. This is the elementary kids’ first year as a Robotics team. It was also the coach’s first year as an elementary coach. Good job Robotics teams! ■

Books vs. Nooks

By Mia DiLuzio and Keira Burton, 5th grade

Many people say Nooks and other e-readers are taking over books. It is starting to look like people are using Nooks more; do you think that is good or bad? I asked Ksana Broadwell, a Youth Librarian, “How do you feel about books and other e-readers?” Ksana responded, “I think they are a great tool and people love using them, but they can be a problem.” The issue Ksana mentioned is people do love using books but they can be a problem if they are overused.



At Russell I. Doig Middle School, 5th grade students voted for either books or Nooks (and other e-readers) to read from. Out of 100%, 26% percent of fifth graders voted for Nooks (**that's not a lot!**), and books got 74% of the votes (**that is a lot! ... GO BOOKS!**). But both e-readers and books are great tools for fun learning and many other uses. Which would you vote for? ■

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum

Something familiar, something peculiar...

You may or may not have seen the C.O.D. Drama Club’s production of Stephen Sondheim’s “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum,” but chances are if you did, you left the theatre humming or whistling one of the show’s many earworms. For those that didn’t, the facts: “Forum,” which premiered at Charles O. Dickerson High on March 11th and ran through the 13th, is a 1962 musical farce that takes place in a rather loose incarnation of ancient Rome. Famous for its bawdy jokes, breakneck line-slinging, and incredibly catchy songs, the show was a new challenge for the Drama Club—it was, at least, very different from last year’s

“Beauty & the Beast.” Ben Pesco starred as Roman slave Pseudolus, Lucas Puleo and Berkley Sawester took on the young lovers Hero and Philia, and Ryan Mitchell, Sofia Tantillo, Tucker Rossi, Jack Honig, and myself (Hanna Hertzler), rounded out the main cast, which also included a surprise cameo from our school principal, Mr. Jon Koeng, and a tremendous ensemble of “proteans.”

But don’t take my word for it—I managed to round up two of the people who made it happen: Mrs. Gill, the show’s director and Drama Club head honcho, and the aforementioned Ben Pesco, for a glimpse backstage into the inner workings of the Drama Club. Let’s see what they have to say, shall we?

TRUMANSBURG TROUBADOUR: Ben, you’ve participated in a lot of previous projects with the drama club. How did “Forum” compare with past shows?

BEN PESCO: This show... seemed to have

a little more organization to it. Some of the past shows were a lot more hit-and-miss with rehearsals, while this one seemed to have a bit more structure. The commitment level of some of the actors seemed to be a lot higher this year.

TT: What kind of feedback have you gotten from audience members, as the star of the show?

BP: Actually, just this last week I went to see a show at the Kitchen Theatre, and someone pulled me aside and congratulated me on the show, so I’m still getting compliments about it. It seems to be really well-received and that was really nice because that’s never happened with any other show I’ve been in.... People recognized it and they saw that there was a lot of work put into it, and it ended up coming together very well, being very put-together.

TT: Your favorite fellow actor in the show, in the role that they played?

BP: [Thinks for a moment] Ryan Mitchell as Senex.

TT: I knew you were going to say that.

(Note: Ryan, a junior, played a lecherous old man.)

BP: I have to say, the way that he delivered those lines... he was so believable in that role, and I think that’s what makes a show, when the characters are believable.



Go West!**Billie Plumlee, 3rd Grade**

This year, Mrs. Frost, (who teaches elementary school music), chose the school play to be "Go West." By the school play, I mean the third and fourth grade play.

"Go West" is a musical about different ways to get to the West, such as railroads, steamboats, wagon trains, lots of things. I participated in this school event. A couple months after school started, we started having rehearsals on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 to 3:30. The play itself was on January 28th, 2016. About 92 people were in the cast.

A week after, Mrs. Frost held a pizza party! We ate pizza in the chorus room while we watched a recording of our play. Everyone got a pin that said "GO WEST!" on the top and "Trumansburg Elementary" on the bottom. It was red, and I think it ended up on a lot of backpacks, including mine. Everyone I know enjoyed

the play, and obviously the pizza party, unless you were allergic to pizza.

Mrs. Frost, all 92 kids, plus additional parent helpers all helped to make this musical work. There were a couple of problems, like rehearsals going right through flu season and stuff like that. Luckily, not many things interfered with the actual musical. The whole school got to see us perform the play, because we did it during the school day so all the kids and teachers could see it.

Since "Go West" was not that long, we showed the whole thing at school, unlike with some longer plays when we just showed a preview. I actually kind of wish there had been an intermission, because then we could have gotten treats. Oh darn, I forget I couldn't have gotten treats even if there was an intermission... I was up on stage. Well,

the play was fun, and everyone enjoyed it! I wonder what Mrs. Frost is going to do for the play next year.... ■



The 2015 TCSD Foundation Annual Report is now available at:

tcsdfoundation.org/category/annual-reports/

Marvelous Makayla's Works of Art (continued)

primary colors red, blue and yellow so much, especially when they go together, and that piece is all three of them bleeding together.

BB: Makayla, what are your college plans?

MB: For a while I wasn't sure. I wanted to be a teacher for most of my life. And now I finally think I am going to continue that and I'm going to be an art teacher. I applied to different art schools and was accepted at the prestigious Pratt Institute. I am excited to be attending Pratt this fall. I will go there for Art Education and look to pursue a Masters in Teaching there as well. Pratt is in Brooklyn, in New York City, which will be a really cool environment to be in. I will do the first two years at the Pratt campus in Utica, and then the last three years in Brooklyn, to finish my undergraduate art degree (Bachelor of Fine Art) and the Teaching Degree. There is a certification at the end of the program.

BB: What do you want to do after you go to college?

MB: I always want to keep making art and to keep writing. Definitely, always. Once I get certified as a teacher, I want to spend a lot of time in a good school where I can teach and be a part of the community. I'd like to teach high school students.

BB: What inspired you to want to be a teacher?

MB: Six women in my family have been teachers. Three of my aunts, my grandmother, two of my cousins, are teachers. There is this vibe in the family that is so deep and implanted in me.

BB: Do you have any suggestions

for kids who are interested in becoming artists or who want to write poems?

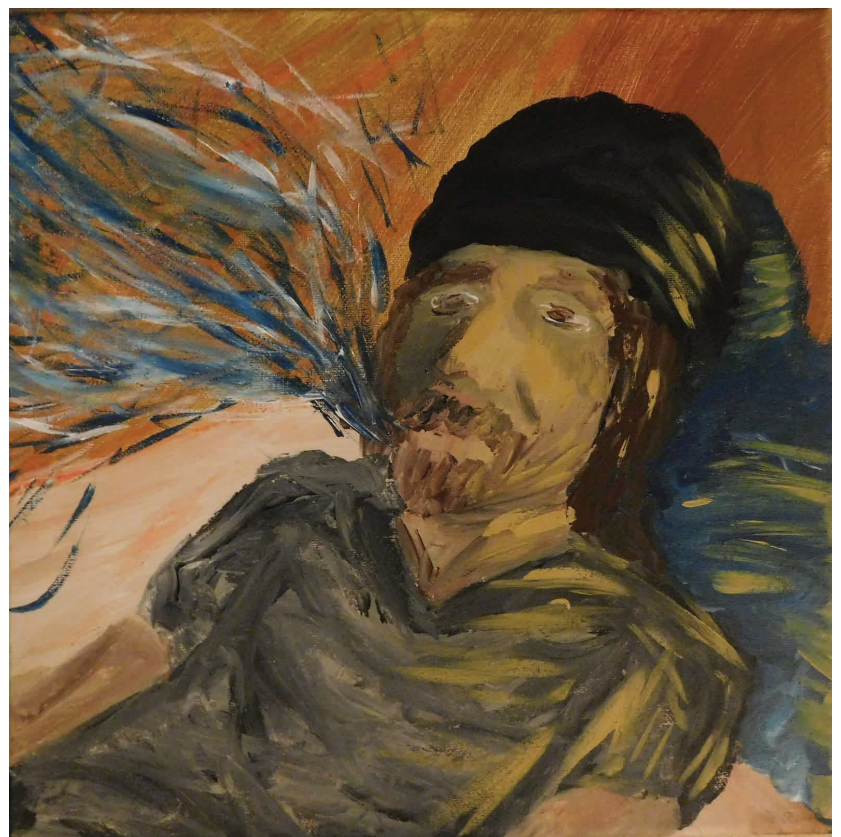
MB: For art, you never stop drawing. You just always keep going and if you don't feel like something is looking the way you want it to, you just keep drawing it again and again and again until it really fits how you like it. Practice makes pretty close to perfect if not perfect, so I think that's one of the best ways to get better at something is to just keep doing it always, always, always. Poetry is really very loose as a medium. Really anyone can write anything and it can be poetry. The type of poetry that I do is really self-reflective so it's putting my own feelings and ideas and thoughts down on paper in an interesting way. Some people like to write about nature, so it's really about writing about something that interests you.

BB: Who is your favorite poet and favorite artist?

MB: My favorite poet right now is Sylvia Plath and my favorite artist, there are so many, that is a tough question. Right now, my favorite artist is a woman named Alexa Meade. She paints on people to make them look like a live painting and then she takes pictures of them and it is really cool.

BB: Wow, that sounds really cool. Do you share your art with your family and friends?

MB: Yes I do. A lot of the time, I'll paint



A painting of Makayla's father

things for my friends because they want something to remember me by when they go to college or they just want something cool.

BB: I know it's hard to pick favorites, but who is your favorite friend to paint for or about?

MB: My friend Mikey. I've drawn tons of pictures of him and I've given him paintings. He's also a little bit of an artist too.

BB: I know you must like painting for all of your friends. What is your favorite thing to paint from memory?

MB: From memory, I really like to paint faces. I like facial structures. Not necessarily people I know, maybe it is just a

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Tburg Tech?***By Chloe Mount, 12th Grade***

What is the first thing you do when you wake up in the morning—check your phone? Turn on the TV to The Weather Channel? Look at your e-mail? Once you're at work, school, or wherever it is that you spend your time, how much technology is incorporated into going about your daily tasks? Most of your answers probably fall under "yes" and "A LOT." Many people today believe that technology is taking over the lives of my generation but in reality, technology is enhancing our ability to be successful in the future.

Trumansburg High School and Middle School introduced the use of technology in 2011-2012 when the Samsung Galaxy Tablets were distributed to all fifth and ninth graders. Two years later, the district purchased iPads for all high school students and staff. There have been obstacles in this transition of learning style, but in the grand scheme of things, this purchase is on the road to success. One of the original goals of this investment was to become a paper-free zone, encouraging the awareness of conserving the environment. While that is still the objective to be met, other benefits seem to be much more apparent. The most substantial of these is the actual use of technology by students. We live in a society today that is awfully reliant on the

use of technology. At most jobs, we will be expected to be able to learn how to use whatever type of technology is relevant for that occupation. So having iPads and tablets in classrooms allows students to become faster learners and more functional using technology, hopefully giving us an edge in the ever-competitive workplace.

The intentions are good, but the research shows that simply introducing technology into the classroom is not enough. In the *Forbes* magazine article, "It's Time To Rethink Our Use Of Technology In Schools," the author explained that bringing technology into the system has not been as influential as imagined. Nick Morrison, wrote, "Despite numerous weighty, thorough—and expensive—studies, none has yet shown any link between information technology and improved learning."



So, while the overall intentions for technology are to increase the success of students, it is literally just another way of learning.

Another goal of incorporating technology into learning spaces is for students to be able to learn at their own pace. That is a nice idea, but how realistic is that, really? If that was a true goal, then what is the point of having timed, standardized tests? Why have class due dates? If kids are being encouraged to do work by whatever pace that is the most effective for them, half of the educational system would have to change too. For now, what the success of students comes down to is the aid of teachers. It may be that the availability of technology is allowing teachers to make lessons more efficient and communication better, but that one-on-one interaction is often lost. It is still important for Trumansburg Central School District to be clear about that as this transition takes place.

*(continued on page 9)****Therapy Dogs in Trumansburg Schools: Good or Bad Idea?******By Emily Sheerer, 10th grade***

Therapy dogs in public schools are becoming a popular solution for student stress. Anxious, depressed, or struggling students could simply drop by the counselors' office during their free period, and pet a therapy dog. Feelings of pressure from peers and parental figures are common for teenagers especially in high school and middle school—and often distract students from their school work and important classes. A quick session with a therapy dog could easily lighten the mood of stressed, upset, angry, or anxious students. According to CNN, "Scientific studies do show that canine interaction increases a human's level of oxytocin, a hormone that reduces anxiety and blood pressure. Petting a dog or caring for a pet helps people become less frightened, more secure, and diverts their attention away from their own fears or anxieties."

The argument of bringing therapy dogs into schools is commonly faced with the question of students or staff members with allergies. Using hypoallergenic dogs could be an answer to this, and are commonly owned. In fact, many students themselves own hypoallergenic dogs. If this option is not attainable, staff or students with allergies to dogs would have to inform the counseling office and school about their allergy, so the dog would be kept

away. In addition, the dog could be confined to one room, which would prevent the dog's hair from shedding and leaving the room and affecting someone with an allergy.

Therapy dogs are required to go through training to get certified. The training teaches the dogs obedience, relaxation and control, socialization skills, and many other behaviors that are im-



portant for them to be safe in a public environment and not cause harm. The guidelines of therapy dogs are strict in order for people to be safe around the dog and to prevent allergic reactions to the dog.

Thistle, a Sheltie, is a Certified Therapy dog with Therapy Dogs International. Thistle is owned by Valerie Fontaine, a special education teacher in Trumansburg Elementary School. Thistle has been working in the elementary school classrooms for seven years, in kindergarten through fifth grade, and has been in a second grade classroom for the past two years with Mr. Baxendell and Mrs. Fontaine. "She goes around and greets the students in the morning and sets the tone for the day," Mrs. Fontaine says about Thistle. She adds that when students encounter problems on the playground or during the school day, they're often more likely to talk to Thistle about it than the teacher. When the dog is not actively "working" in the classroom, she stays in her crate. Students will go over to talk to her there. Thistle has been a great addition to the Trumansburg Elementary School.

Overall, more therapy dogs would be great additions to the Trumansburg School District, and could help many students struggling with anxiety, depression, disabilities, and stress. ■

Student Opinion: What's Wrong with Our School Spirit?

By Zachary Ives, 12th grade

School spirit: it is something all schools strive to have. However, many find it difficult to achieve this goal. This is the case at our very own high school.

Twenty years ago, school spirit at Charles O. Dickerson was perhaps at an all-time high. The sports teams were ultra-competitive, the students were enthused about the teams, and people in the community were active spectators and fans. This can easily be attributed to the popularity of sports teams that were competing for title after title, season after season; especially basketball and baseball. After all, there is something to be said about winning multiple sectional basketball titles in the early 1980s and mid-90s and division titles throughout the 80s and 90s under Coach Wes Somerville and consecutive baseball divisional titles in the 90s under Scott Voorhees.

Fast-forward to the present day: school spirit is at an all time low. This may be due to the fact that many of the sports teams are not as competitive now as they were then. This can be attributed to a variety of reasons, perhaps among them the idea that nowadays, kids are not taught as much to be competitive, but rather, that everyone wins and everyone gets a trophy. In addition, some might argue that young people in this age are unwilling to put in the time and commitment it takes to be great at something. In some cases, the polar opposite might be true; students are pulled in too many different directions, focusing their positive energy on other things and maybe spreading themselves too thin. Many may not have the time to juggle all their activities and fit in the school spirit aspect.

As school spirit is an important characteristic in many schools, Trumansburg's

declining trend is saddening and needs to be fixed. However, it is very difficult to just "fix" a lack of school spirit. It takes time and a concerted effort by the students. Sadly, that concerted effort is what appears to be in short supply at Trumansburg. Is this due to laziness and negativity taking over? This causes a lack of the excitement among students which is the focal point of school spirit.



During my four years here at Trumansburg, I have seen fluctuations of school spirit. Some of the high points have been the rallying of students behind our Varsity volleyball team the past couple of seasons—they even took a spectator bus to Thomas Edison to support the team in the IAC Championship game in 2014 as well as a spectator bus to Tioga to watch them in the Sectional Tournament that same year. There was also the 2010 Varsity boys soccer team winning the Sectional Champion-

ship and the consequent support from the students and the community. And perhaps the most recent high point would be the boys Varsity basketball team and their improbable run to the Sectional Championship game in the winter of 2016. As for low points in recent years, unfortunately there have been many more, such as the lack of support from any students when the Varsity baseball team made it to the IAC Championship game last spring, or the dwindling number of fans in attendance at the Volleyball Sectional Tournament this past fall at our own school. In addition there has been little support for either of our soccer teams in their recent Sectional Tournament runs to the final four, as well as little to no support for our golf team, which has come home with multiple IAC and Sectional Championships and has had arguably the most successful season that our school has seen in recent memory, besides that of Track. Yet they get no student support when they bring the championships back year after year. I've seen high points and low points in all four of my years here. As a school, we should strive not to have fluctuations, but to reach a high point, and then remain at that high point, and to reach a high point in one sport and be able to carry it on to the next sport, and any sport that follows. ■

Hey, Tburg students! Do you agree? Write your own opinion piece and send it to trumansburgtroubadour@gmail.com.

May Day 5 & 5

By Xander Dawson, 6th grade

The May Day 5 & 5 happened on May 14th, 2016. It was a big turnout for the race with about 450 people. The winner of the 5K race this year was Matthew Wilbur, from Corning, NY with a time of 16 minutes and 29 seconds. The race started out as a 5k, which is 3.2 miles, but it was recently expanded to include both a 5k and a 5 mile race. The course was also USATF, or United States of America Track and Field, certified. Having this certification means the course has an exact distance of 5 kilometers for the 5k and 5 miles for the 5 mile. The race started out as an effort to raise money for the track bathrooms, and their goal has been completed. They have raised all the money for the bathrooms, which hopefully will be installed soon. The race a couple of years ago started using pacers so people can follow a pacer to get a certain time. This year the May Day 5 & 5 received pacers from Wright Fitness and Cycling.

To get more information about the race,



Source: Ed Dawson

I spoke with the race director Amy Dawson in an interview. The first question I asked her was: "What was the most challenging part of planning this race?" She responded, "It is always hard to anticipate how many people will register. We have a lot of expenses for the race that are based on estimating the numbers."

I also asked her how it felt to see the race and her work payoff. She answered, "It is so much fun to watch people in the

community enjoying being active. It doesn't matter whether you are running the race or walking, what is fun is seeing the smiling faces out there enjoying the day!"

The course was also fairly flat and very fast. Many people achieved a new personal record on the course, and got their fastest race time. A new company timed the race this year—TNT timing. During the Chris Bond Race, a new program by Cornell was added, which was training for the race with Ethan Crampton from Cornell. He extended the camp to the May Day 5 & 5 so that kids can train for this race too. The program is led by cross country kids in high school. They teach the kids skills for running, from how to eat before a race to what to wear to the race.

The May Day 5 & 5 was a very fun race and was a great course and great weather. If you did not get a chance to do it this year you should certainly sign up and run it next year. ■

Marvelous Makayla (continued)

random face. I like to paint from memory and imagination.

BB: Is there anything else important about being an artist that you want to add?

MB: With art and painting, you just shouldn't be afraid of anything. Nothing is too weird or too outside the box or too out of the norm to be good art. I think most things, anything, can be art if it's looked at in the right way.

Makayla does not yet sell her art, but her art has been in community art shows and the art auction at school and she has donated some of her art. For the recent TCSD Foundation Art Auction, Makayla donated a painting that was a visual representation of a Michael Jackson song, a painting called "Golden Castles," and two phone collections. Makayla has also received a Scholastics Silver Key Award for a collage and also one for her poetry. Makayla has not really thought about selling pieces now, but will think about that for the future. She will always keep painting.

I really want to thank Makayla for giving so much of her time to this article. This was my first interview and I really enjoyed it. Makayla showed me her portfolio and beautiful paintings. I was lucky to see "Marvelous Makayla's Works Of Art" and I hope after reading this article, you are as inspired as I am. ■

First Grade Field Trip

By Gillian Garrison, 4th grade

What is the first grade field trip? How do you prepare for something like that? Why on earth did they go where they went? What's the point of this trip? What did the first graders learn on this trip? Did they enjoy themselves? There's so much to discover in just one trip. There is so much to learn.

On the first part of the first grade trip to the Museum of the Earth, (when I wasn't there), the museum guides were talking about the rules. You know the basics:

- No running
- Quiet voices
- Don't touch the glass
- Stay where your teacher wants you to stay

When I arrived there, the first graders were starting to go to the stations and go around the museum. The stations were The Ice Age, Fossils, and Material/Rock Guessing. Personally, I thought the fossils were awesome. Everyone got to take one home. The Ice Age station was where you could touch ice, and go into an ice cave and see a Megalodon skeleton. Then there was Rock Guessing, in which you had to guess what material the rocks were made out of.

First graders look forward to field trips. They are always excited to learn. So, how do you harness their excitement? I pondered this. I interviewed Mrs. Glanton.

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum (continued)

You know when you see a show and you're like, "I don't really see this actor as that character," the whole suspension of disbelief doesn't fly, and seeing Ryan as Senex was just perfect.

TT: I feel like a lot of people really committed to their roles in this show.

BP: Oh yes.

TT: Your favorite song?

BP: "Maid!" Oh my god. Oh, and "Free." (Note: "Everybody Ought to Have a Maid" is possibly the show's bawdiest tune, a vaudevillian romp singing the praises of maids that lasts for two encores—just when you think it's gone, it comes back for more. Meanwhile, "Free" is lead Pseudolus's impassioned, rambling imagining of what he'll do when he escapes slavery.)

BP: Gotta say, favorite song that I really had a lead on was "Free" just because of the expression in the song, you can really see emotion in it, even in just the way that it's written. But in terms of just goofball fun, the "Maid" songs—the whole series of them, three of them—just fantastic, the crowd loved those songs.

TT: And, what was the backstage atmosphere like during the run? During rehearsals, everything.

BP: It was... goofy. I'm gonna say it was ruled with a whip, pun intended on that one [he laughs]. And it was just kind of like, fun-loving. People did need to be reigned back a couple of times, but I mean, that kind of is the flow of creativity and I

liked it. It ended up coming together really well. People were on.

TT: Any final thoughts?

BP: Well, I'll definitely be missing the Drama Club. It has been a big part of my life for the past four years and then in the middle school before that. It's definitely been something I've gotten accustomed to.

(Mr. Pesco is a senior, and will be attending Ithaca College.)

And now, a word with our director, Mrs. Christine Gill on the future of the Drama Club:

TT: So, first of all, why "Forum?" What made you seriously consider this unusual show?

CG: Trenton Loughlin (the show's choreographer) and I were looking at ... the kind of population that we usually have audition for shows. And generally we have less men than women, so we were looking at shows that sort of fit in that category ... we were thinking of a comedy, because although there were comedic elements in "Beauty & the Beast," it wasn't what I would call a comedy. So we came up with a couple of different choices. I had already done "Forum" a couple of years ago with a local community group, so I knew it to be a very funny, accessible show for kids, and one that sort of fit in our parameters. So that's how we

(continued on page 8)

When asked, "How do you prepare first graders for the field trip?" she said that the first grade classes would bring in someone to teach kids a little of what they'll discover. They will bring in fish fossils and talk about the museum. So first graders learned about the things they'd see in the museum.

You may be wondering what the purpose of this whole trip was. The first graders were going to be detectives. They were going to see what life was like long ago. They would look at ancient life underwater. The museum gives visitors a whole new perspective.

Why did you pick this trip?" I asked Mrs. Glanton. Every grade level, first through sixth, has TCSD pick a field trip for the grade. All the field trips are funded by the KDT Program through the TCSD Foundation. For example, the sixth graders go to the Cayuga Nature Center. The first graders go to the Museum of the Earth. It is Mrs. Glanton's favorite.

In addition to the regular sights, there were exhibits from the Johnson Museum of Art. There were coral tanks that showed what the ocean was like a long time ago. These included things such as coral reefs, seaweed, and anemone.



Source: www.priweb.org

Kids really enjoyed the trip. I sat next to Alessa, a student in Mrs. Glanton's class, who said she LOVED it. When I asked her what she learned, she said, "I learned about that bumpy rock."

This field trip will be treasured. I will always remember how the kids looked at things with amazed eyes, thoughtful minds, and awe in their words.

You can learn so many things at the Museum of the Earth. Things you won't forget. Things that interest you. Things that give you new ideas. Things that will change your world. You just have to keep your mind open.

I'd like to end by saying a special thanks to Mr. Ouckama for driving me to the museum. I was left behind, but it was just a misunderstanding. I would also like to give a special thanks to Mrs. Glanton for welcoming me to the museum. And Mrs. Miller for working everything out. Thank you. ■

The Tech Crew of Wonderland

By Eleanor Asbrand, 5th Grade

On April 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, people lined up with their tickets to see the Trumansburg Middle School production "The Trials of Alice in Wonderland." The play was cast with a full house each time! The audience walked out of the auditorium with smiles on their faces and pleased with what they had just seen.

The elementary school students got a sneak peek on Friday, April 1st. The play was performed for Pre-K through 4th grade. Only a few scenes were played though, and all of the characters were interviewed in between scenes.

The play is one thing, but I want to take you on a journey behind the scenes. "The Trials of Alice in Wonderland", was a big hit, and in order to do so well there was a lot of backstage work that needed to be done. The tech crew did an amazing job at showing the audience that they care about the play. The crew jobs were: house managers, stage setters, costumes, makeup, and stage manager.

First of all the garden (which was all the way stage left) was created by me, (Eleanor Asbrand), Ellie Bordlemay, and Bela Plumlee (house managers). The lights were conducted by Daniel Redmond and Abbey Ferrell. Some of the stage setters acted as cards to set up "The Queen's Royal Court." Some of these people were Noah Potenza, Fiona Clifford, Nicholas Angulo Stevenson, Wyatt Mechalke, and Nate Wilson. The costumes in this play were very unusual, so the makeup and costume designers were a big part of the production. The stage manager, Abigail Latini, kept everyone in line, and told them when to get on and off the stage.

A lot of our meetings (which were Tuesdays and Thursdays) were just bringing props down from the loft! The loft is a huge storage canopy where they store the props

for all of the plays. Believe it or not everything from the garden came from the loft! Underneath the loft is the other storage unit where the materials to make the props are stored. Both were helpful storage places.

I asked Libby Tielens about her job on the tech crew, and she said: "My job on tech was costumes and makeup." I also asked her what her favorite part of being on the job was, and she said: "Making the Dodo's costume was fun!"

I asked the director, Dan Trippett some questions:

What did you like best about directing the play? In most musicals I have been involved with as director or actor, the teams of set builders, designers and performers have been adults, trained in theatrical arts. What was really exciting about this production was working with and experiencing the students as they were constructively adding their own touches and input to make this production come alive. I encouraged all students to be involved in the creation of "Trials of Alice" and pretty much everyone one of them contributed.

How well do you think tech crew did on the play? The tech crew did everything that was asked of them or required. The production went smoothly and the tech crew (like any excellent tech crew) made the play run smoother and easier for the audience to watch. Bravo, Tech Crew!



What do you think could have been done more carefully? For the most part, the tech students did a wonderful job with their assigned tasks. There were a few elements that I felt could have used more attention. For a future production I might spend a bit more time training lights and sound tech on their specific duties. I would also give more consideration on involving my house manager tech team in a more creative way.

Would you consider doing other plays with this tech crew group? In the end, this tech group performed wonderfully. It was a challenge at times to get all students in a tech group this size (30 students) focused and engaged from week to week. In hindsight, using parent volunteers for tech group rehearsals would help keep younger, less focused tech students focused on their assignments. With the help of parent volunteers, teaching a tech crew this size would be an easier, less stressful job.

Being on tech crew was a fun experience. It was always a team effort, and we were all in it together. We felt very accomplished when the play was over. I know that Dan Trippett, our director, was very happy with the production, and so was the audience. I hope if you are in middle school next year, you decide to do tech crew! ■



A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum (continued)

ended up with "Forum"!

TT: Do you think your choice worked out well?

CG: I think it did. "Forum," inevitably, is a show that people don't know. But once they see it, or read it, they're like "oh, why didn't I know this before, because this really is funny." It's a little bawdy, but I think everybody was ready for a little bawdy after... "Beauty." [laughs]

TT: And what was the critical response to the show?

CG: People who saw it really, really enjoyed it. And some people actually said, "We weren't sure if we were supposed to start laughing at stuff right away, but when we realized that we were, it was really funny!" They really enjoyed it. And people were also really impressed with the sets and the costumes, with what a beautiful show it was, in addition to being so funny and entertaining.

TT: So, what's next for the Drama Club?

CG: Well, we're looking at having some sort of picnic in the spring, we thought that that might be fun. And we're actual-



Source: www.ithaca.com

ly in discussion of swapping around when we do the musical. We were looking at doing a musical in the fall, with the adjustment being made because fall sports are sort of held within the daylight hours, so we know that if kids are doing sports in the fall, their schedules are going to coordinate with possible rehearsals better. So the fall kind of makes things accessible to more people than doing things in the winter. It would be a fast turnaround so we'd want to let people know what was going on

at the end of the year in September. But I think it'd be fun to get right on it! We also wouldn't have anyone to compete with—this year, our show was the same weekend as many, many other places. I know you guys like to go see other schools' shows, so this would free people up to do that. And, of course, we would do the straight play in the spring.

TT: That sounds great.

CG: It sounds good! It really sounds good. I don't know how it'd pan out, but... [laughs]

TT: Hey, any advance word on next year's musical?

CG: Well, to preface this, I think that it is valid to say that we don't usually have a lot of guys, or we're not big dancers ... I think those are valid considerations, but next year we might be looking for an "if you build it, they will come" kind of thing... So, do a show that we're really excited about and people will come just because. And maybe we'll attract some new people! ■

Who are the Tri-Town Titans?

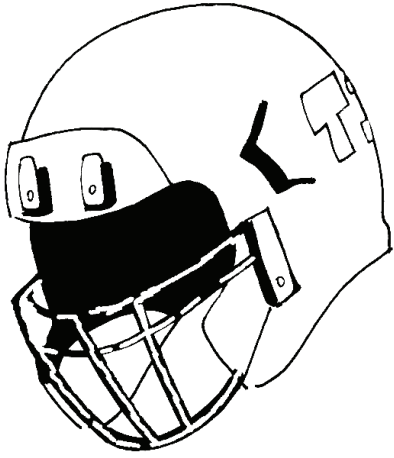
By Caleb Ladd, 10th grade

This fall, Trumansburg football players and fans have something to look forward to. After open voting from Trumansburg, South Seneca, and Romulus school districts, it seems that next year the football team will be taking on a new name. The three schools have all voted, and the general consensus is that the

“Tri-Town Titans” will be representing these schools on the gridiron. The football team will take the field for their first game in black, blue, and gold uniforms, the primary colors from each of the three schools, and incorporated into one uniform.

The moniker was

generated after some unrest from the community about Trumansburg playing under South Seneca’s name. Hopefully this change will prove successful and will get the community more excited about this season of football. ■



Staff Slam

By Keira Burton, 5th grade

Imagine your teachers on a basketball court, playing against each other. It’s not just a crazy dream, it’s real! At Trumansburg Central School District, every year around the end of February in the high school gym, there is a basketball game called the Staff Slam. Teachers from the Elementary School, Russell I. Doig Middle School, and Charles O. Dickerson High School all play against each other.

Now, there are no winners or losers at this game. This is a fundraiser. The money from the tickets and other events go towards building bathrooms and a concession stand up at the track at the school. Since then, both the bathrooms and the concession stand have begun to be built. Before this, Port A Potties were the only bathroom up at the track, and not many people liked to use those! And also, there was only a small concession stand. That meant not much food was being sold at track, football, soccer, softball, and baseball games. That also meant that not much money was made which could go towards things for our school, like new athletic equipment. This event actually started out as a fundraiser to build a new playground in 2008!

I interviewed Jody Latini, who ran the event. I asked her how much money was raised by the event. She said, “\$2,029 for sports boosters from concessions, and \$3,819 to split between the elementary and middle school Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and high school student council.” I then asked her what feelings she had from running the event. She responded by saying, “First, I was nervous to take over such an amazing event. Ann DiPetta was the previous organizer and she was really good at it, so there were some big shoes to fill. Then I was just so proud to be part of such an amazing community effort to support our school!”

My next question was if she felt that

Tburg Tech (continued)

Although the vision behind bringing technology into our education is crystal clear, the actual transition to this learning style is slower than expected, and will take time to be fully adapted. It can be difficult for some adults to entirely accept the idea of technology having grown up without its current level of omnipresence, but it is inevitable that technology will be a part of our future—therefore the district should continue entering into this new realm of learning. ■



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this event is beneficial to our community. She answered by saying, “I absolutely think it benefits the community. Most obvious is that it is a fundraiser to build things our community needs— first a new playground and now the new restroom facilities. But even more importantly, I think communities need opportunities to come together in this way— it’s what keeps us together and reminds us what is special about this town.”

I also asked her how she kept the Staff Slam going, and if it was hard at any point to do so. She said, “The most important thing is to be really organized and stick to a schedule! The great thing about this event is that a lot of people help out, so it’s not all dependent on one person. If I forget something, Mr. Hodge or Mr. Perkins or Mrs. VanNess or lots of other people are there to remind me and keep things going!” And my final question was: Is this an experience that you would be willing to do again? Her answer was, “Absolutely! It’s a great event and I love how everyone works together to make it happen. We have a few new ideas planned for next year to keep it fresh and interesting, and I’m really excited to be the one to make sure we keep this great tradition going!” Thanks Jody for all that great information.

Right now, if you have never been to the Staff Slam before, you might be wondering: What goes on during the event? Well, there are many things that go on while the game is being played. In the high school cafeteria, there are food and drinks such as nachos, soda, popcorn, Gatorade, and candy. Also, there is a bake sale with cookies, cupcakes, and brownies! In the hallway, there is face painting. There, you can show who you’re rooting for by getting your favorite team member’s number, a basketball, or your team’s color painted on your face! And then of course, in the gym, is the main event ... the basketball game! The crowds

Composting: A Breakdown of Your Food Scraps’ Breakdown (continued)

Utensils. Although the company claims these spoons, forks, and knives are compostable, that label is misleading. Studies have proven that they in fact do not— however, many are still fooled into purchasing them. Our school district still passes out these utensils, and each day students drop more and more into the compost bin.

Composting is an environmentally-friendly alternative to throwing away your biodegradable items. Through Cayuga Compost, our school district’s compost is broken down into a rich soil that helps gardens flourish. By taking part in such a beneficial act, Trumansburg is taking strides to help better the environment. ■

roar as they cheer on the teams. There is a wave of color—red for the elementary school, gold (or yellow) for the middle school, or blue for the high school. This game creates a humongous amount of excitement for the students in the elementary school, all the way through to the high school!

I also interviewed a few 3rd graders in the elementary school, all asking them the same exact question: “What feeling did the Staff Slam give you?” Every single one of them said “excitement!” And I agree with those students. The game gave me that same exact feeling. Was it the cheering of the fans as a teacher dribbles the basketball across the court, going for the basket? The great feeling you get with your friends, spending time with each other, all of you giddy with excitement? Or maybe watching one of your teachers make a basket, making you think, That’s my math teacher! For me, it was all of the above!

Whether it’s that time with friends, watching your teachers, or cheering the players on, it’s just all so much fun to me! So maybe next year, try to come and watch the Staff Slam. I certainly will! ■



A Salute to Seven TCSD Foundation Board Members

The TCSD Foundation wishes to honor and thank seven board members who will be stepping down as directors this year. Their contributions to Trumansburg School District would take an entire *Troubadour* issue to describe. Please enjoy these highlights.



Hayden Brainard



Shirley Brown



Nancy Grossman



Kathleen Hefferon



Carolyn Lange



Roberta Norman



Greg Van Ness

Hayden Brainard joined the TCSD Foundation Board in 2007 and has served as Chair of the Fundraising committee, President, and various other roles. Hayden has focused on many important projects during his time on the Foundation Board, with a consistent focus on fundraising. Most proud of: Relationships—we have always maintained a very good relationship with the district administration and teachers. We could not have achieved as much without their support. KDT Program—The KDT Program was a colossal effort—hard to briefly summarize the effort put forth by many to accomplish the program we have today. Consistency—since we started fundraising we have consistently funded two Teacher Grant cycles every year for nine years. We have consistently generated new ideas and new ways to improve education in our school district. Hopes for TCSDF: Maintain focus on these important objectives, continue to innovate, build the Alumni Network. The Alumni Network could make a significant impact on our students as they graduate and begin to explore the world by making connections in their field of interest, in places students are going, and to colleges where alumni are now or have been.

Shirley Brown joined the TCSD Foundation Board in 2013. She focused on public relations, and served as Chair of the Public Relations committee. She took on the important task of having the Foundation become known in the community, stabilizing the use of Facebook and our website, and getting the word out whenever and wherever possible. Most proud of: The success of the *Trumansburg Troubadour* and the teamwork that came together to take it from something the Foundation Board had wished we had to it now being part of a class in the high school. Hopes for TCSDF: I am excited for the new Board members who are coming in as I and others leave. Having met most of them, they are perfect to carry the torch and build on all that has been done so far. Anything is possible when you build it with authentic passion and commitment—and of course, collaboration!

Nancy Grossman joined the TCSD Foundation Board six years ago, focusing mainly on bringing KDT Trumansburg on board and expanding the program from a pilot to Pre-K through Grade 6. She also served as Secretary, and participated in many Teacher Grant Review Panels. Most proud of: KDT Tburg now being part of the curriculum. Hopes for TCSDF: The growth of community support for TCSDF and the ability to continue with current programming and to expand into other areas.

Kathleen Hefferon joined the TCSD Foundation Board over five years ago. She helped with the Teacher Grant decision-making process. Most proud of: I was happy to provide insight and what expertise I had. Hopes for TCSDF: I think that the Foundation is on the right track—just keep doing what you are doing!

Carolyn Lange joined the TCSD Foundation Board in 2010, after having served on a number of Teacher Grant Review Panels. Carolyn served as Chair of the Program committee, focusing specifically on the Teacher Grant Program and supporting the KDT-Tburg Program. Most proud of: Being a part of the Foundation Board is exciting. They are hard-working, thoughtful, optimistic supporters of opportunities for our youth and of playing a part in making our district the best it can be for our students. Fun for me is the nitty-gritty—checking with teachers to plan KDT book deliveries & to check in on trips, touching base personally when possible to see Teacher Grants in action. Hopes for TCSDF: Focus on developing a partnership with the District and Alumni Association; Foundation support of teacher initiatives through Teacher Grants—it sometimes solves a small problem of materials, or sometimes allows an innovation which may lead to continued program development; continued support of the *Troubadour* and the KDT program—communicating the idea behind the entire program, as well as checking in with teachers about how their trip/experience is going is part of our task.

Roberta Norman joined the TCSD Foundation Board six years ago and has been a member of the Finance committee all six years, and the Treasurer for the past four years. Most proud of: Managing the financial aspects of the Foundation. It has been an honor to have this responsibility. Hopes for TCSDF: I am confident that the Foundation, through the guidance of committed and engaged board members, will continue to support the enrichment of the youth of the Trumansburg Central School District for many years to come.

Greg Van Ness joined the TCSD Foundation Board in 2012 and has led efforts in fundraising, events, and public relations. Most proud of: Providing support for the Youth Art Auction event that continues to grow each year. Helping to form an Alumni engagement committee to support future donation efforts. Hopes for TCSDF: My hope for the Foundation is to continue educating the community that they are one of the premier Trumansburg School District resources for the advancement of education. There are so many great groups who support our school that knowing what the mission of each one is can be a challenge and at times confusing. A strong continued public relations effort will help the Foundation carry on its mission for many years to come. ■

Meet Our Editors



Amanda Livingston is currently a student at Ithaca College majoring in Writing. She has held internships at Random House, Writopia Lab, *The Miss Information*, the Hudson Valley Writers' Center, and *Westchester Magazine*. She currently serves as a copy editor for *The Ithacan* and a contributing writer to *Buzzsaw Magazine*, and is a 2013 recipient of a New York Women in Communications scholarship. She previously ran her own newsletter and created an English language arts tutorial program for middle school students. She has been working as a teaching/editorial intern for the *Troubadour* since August 2015. Find her online at amandaunderconstruction.com. ■



Hanna Hertzler is the illustrator and student editor in chief of the *Trumansburg Troubadour*. She is a junior at Charles O. Dickerson High School, and has been working on the *Troubadour* for two years now. You may have also seen her in any recent Drama Club production. In her free time, she watches silent films and draws comics. ■