

Trumansburg Troubadour

March for the Animals

By Sophie Isacks, 5th Grade

On October 2, 2016, at 10:30 in the morning, over 50 people and their pets crowded around a woman with a microphone who welcomed everyone to the annual SPCA's (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) March for the Animals. The crowd cheered as she spoke about how the march provides benefits and services to the animals right here in Tompkins County.

My friends Ellie Gattine and Maren Friedman and I raised money for the march with a bake sale at the local Shursave. Maren and Ellie went down their streets, asking for donations from their neighbors. We managed to raise \$265.00 total.

We arrived at the march and Ellie and I got our t-shirts. Maren was already registered. We marched and had fun, taking turns holding the leash of another friend's dog. We saw a lot of dogs in shirts along the way. There were a lot of cute dogs.

We learned that the money we raised would be used to provide shelter, food, and medical care for homeless animals. We also learned that they had 93 donors, and that they almost reached their goal of \$100,000, raising \$91,104.00. It was a total success!

March for the Animals happens every year, so be sure to donate. Every donation counts!

I want to give special thanks to the SPCA and their amazing customer service, who put up with our many questions. I also want to give thanks to everyone who helped us raise our money for the march. They were amazing. ■



STUDENT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
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The *Trumansburg Troubadour*
welcomes your feedback!

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What Students Do to Avoid the Winter Blues

By Emily Sheerer, Sophomore

When the ground is covered in ice, the wind stings your face, and it's almost impossible to be outside for more than 5 minutes without freezing to death, many kids are stuck inside looking for something to do. In such a small town, people can easily get bored by the few attractions we have during winter. Staying in your house for months doesn't always keep a person's mind active and happy. However, many students find ways to counter these winter blues with school-sponsored events.

The school district provides many jovial, exhilarating events for the winter to keep students in the winter mood. In the **high school**, the week before Christmas break was full of fun, winter-inspired events. There was a gingerbread house contest, a hallway decorating contest between classrooms, and a hot chocolate bar. Also, the entire week was holiday themed, where students could dress up according to the theme of the day—pajama day, North Pole day, holiday hootenanny day, and ugly Christmas sweater day. Later, on January 28th, there was the Snowball Dance, which was a semiformal in the high school gym. Half of the gym was a "casino" where students could play games for prizes, while the other half of the gym was the dance floor.

Aside from holiday-themed activities, those planning or considering going to college attended the College Panel on January 6th, where previous Trumansburg graduates came

back and answered questions about their college experience. For those who love sports, the Harlem Wizards visited on January 31st.

Although game night was cancelled in the **middle school**, a new event, Math and Movement, is taking place on February 4th. There was a dance on January 6th, as well as a few basketball tournaments, and there will be a Screenagers movie screening in the following months. Staff members are also working to set up a trip to sled at Rice Hill in collaboration with the elementary school.

The **elementary school** had a school-wide celebration with Moreland the Magician, who put on two shows teaching the third and fourth graders magic tricks. Pajama day was on December 21st, and in February they have a school-wide assembly to play "Jeopardy." The schools have provided their students with many fun activities outside of school to prevent boredom!

When asked what he does to counter the winter blues, senior Henry Warner says "I exercise and drink lots of water, and extensively scan encyclopedias for information so I can become smarter." Many students, like him, like to exercise during the winter. It's important to get those endorphins flowing to feel better. Rather than get stuck in the winter bore, encourage others around you to have fun and stay happy. ■



Spirit Week

By Mia DiLuzio, 6th Grade

Spirit Week took place at Trumansburg Middle School from Monday, October 24th to Friday, October 28th, during school hours (7:51 AM to 2:45 PM). Spirit Week is when the students and staff dress up, or sometimes work together as a homeroom or a grade level to earn a pizza party or Raider Tickets.

Raider Tickets are something the students can earn by being helpful, kind, and respectful. Periodically, the staff of the middle school put together a little stand where students can buy things like backpacks and magnets. Why do we have Spirit Week? So that the students and teachers of Trumansburg Middle School can come together using teamwork and school spirit: hence the name Spirit Week!

Monday was Pajama Day; students and staff got to wear their pajamas to school. Tuesday was Twin Day where pairs of students put together matching outfits. Wednesday was Color Wars, where each grade level was assigned a color to wear and the homeroom with the most participants wearing their assigned color won a pizza party. Thursday was Throwback Thursday, where students and staff could dress up from any time period. Friday was Blue and Gold Day, where students and staff dressed up in blue and gold in honor of the school colors.

Who helped put this all together? The members and leaders of 6th through 8th grade student council. They are: Ellie Gardner, Claire Williamson, Morgan Weatherby, Vittoria Georgiadis, Briana Specchio, Lily Herman, Caitlin Bub, Jenh Hanra, Adam Kibble, Xander Dawson, Sam Oxley, Dylin Higgins, Ellie McLennan, Mia DiLuzio, Maddox Goldsberry, and teachers Mr. Begeal and Mrs. Salib. How did they do it? Some of the student council leaders get on the loudspeaker to make announcements telling students and staff what to wear and when to wear it. The student council also posts flyers in almost every hallway. I look forward to next year's Spirit Week! ■

Caring Elves

By Hannah Pulis, Sophomore

During the holiday season, many people go out of their way to spend ridiculous amounts of money on new trends and fads. This past year, like every year, the Ulysses Christmas Bureau helped make the holiday season extra special for the families of Trumansburg whose number one priority this wasn't rushing out to get their kids overpriced toys and gadgets. The Christmas Bureau was started well over 60 years ago, and is an all volunteer, tax-exempt, charitable organization. Students from Trumansburg High Schools Advanced Art Class and DDP class teamed up to create and paint puzzles, wooden figures, play tool kits and much more to donate to the organization. Students were all smiles while creating the beautiful toys as they wore their Santa hats and reindeer antlers, filling the art room with holiday cheer. Katarina Gavurnik, eleventh grade, said she "had a great time" and that the experience was "extremely satisfying". The classes produced over 40 toys for the organization, which were then received by smiling children around the community. ■



Little Blue Raiders

By Gillian Garrison, 5th Grade

The Little Blue Raiders football team ended their season on a high note. In their last game, the Raiders beat the previously undefeated Lansing Bobcats. With a record of six and one, they tied their record with three other teams: Lansing, Newfield, and Trumansburg were the best in their league.

The Little Blue Raiders are made up of two teams: the Juniors and the Seniors. The Juniors team includes students from third grade to sixth grade, while the Seniors team includes students from sixth and seventh grade.

I interviewed the quarterback for the Seniors, Eli Garrison and the kicker for the Seniors, Ethan Fulton:

What was your favorite part of the season?

Eli: It was probably beating Lansing on the last game of the season.

Which team gave you your toughest match?

Eli: Newfield—our second to last game; because it was one of the first games where we went into the second half losing. We couldn't carry through and we ended up losing.

Ethan: I think our toughest match was Lansing, because they were a really good team and so were we and it was tough because of that.

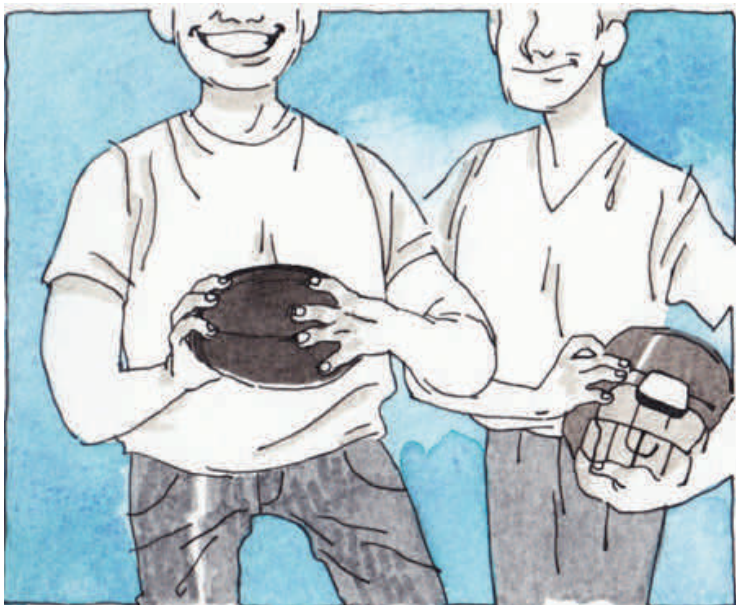
What was the highlight of your season?

Eli: It was walking out for the coin toss in our last game with all the seniors who were moving up. (A coin toss is when a few of the players walk up to choose who is kicking off and who is receiving. If they are playing Lansing at home, Lansing would call the coin toss; heads or tails. Whoever is the guest, or the football team that is visiting the stadium, would call the coin toss.)

Ethan: My personal highlight of the season was the number of field goals I scored and the catch I made to score against Ithaca.

If that's not impressive to you, you should have seen them out on the field. The seniors would outscore almost all their opponents by two touchdowns. In the seniors season of seven games, they made about thirty touchdowns. Let's go Little Blue Raiders!

■



The Sky is Falling? Talking Frogs? We're Thwacked!

By Bailey Baier and Grace Olney, 4th Grade

Guess what the Trumansburg Elementary School Musical was this year? It was *Thwacked!* On Thursday, January 26th at 7pm, members of the Tburg community joined student actors for a fun-filled fairytale about talking frogs and confused town-folk who all think the sky is falling. Did the sweet, smart-thinking student Rachel figure out this catastrophe? Did the Mayor and the town councilmen lead the town-folk as they found their way through this sky-falling, frog-talking mess?! The audience joined us at the Hop and in the Swamp to watch this problem get solved.

The elementary school music teacher, Mrs. Susan Frost, directed this play. Mr. Frost, Mrs. Haus, and parent volunteers assisted Mrs. Frost in the making of the musical. All third and fourth grade students are welcome to participate in the annual school musical. The students feel lucky to have this great opportunity and are thankful for their wonderful music teacher.

In December 2016, we interviewed the key people who made this musical production possible.

BB/GO: Mrs. Frost, how many years have you been doing the play?

Mrs. Frost: Forever! I started musicals when I came to Trumansburg in 1993, so this is my 23rd year. The combined third and fourth grade musical, as it is today, started about 8 to 9 years ago. Before that, the musical was done out of chorus, and we did two shows a year: one with just third graders and one with just fourth graders.

BB/GO: Wow! That is a long time! Why did you choose the play *Thwacked!*?

Mrs. Frost: I loved the name! I look

for catchy names and saw this name. The other thing is that it is time to do another fairytale. The past few years have been more informational and learning. This is a combination of learning and fairytales.

BB/GO: Is there a certain number of people you need to have in the play?

Mrs. Frost: No, there is not a certain number. I have never had trouble filling the parts; I don't usually have enough speaking parts for all the students.

BB/GO: We know that any student who



wants to participate can be in the chorus. What is your favorite and least favorite part about the play?

Mrs. Frost: The fun part is when it all comes together at the end and seeing what the end product is. The hardest part is getting all the planning done and getting it up and going. Once things begin moving along, it gets exciting and you begin to get more and more of a vi-

sion of how it will be. It is not totally planned out. I have an idea, but things change my mind and I get ideas, or students give me ideas.

BB/GO: Have you always picked parts the way you did this year?

Mrs. Frost: To some degree, I've always had some input, but made the majority of the decisions about the parts. This year was very different. I had everyone's input to a greater extent. This seemed more fair to the students too, and I think it worked. Everyone had a very good idea about who would work in which parts. We even brainstormed and created more parts through skits. I can't believe we never thought about this before.

BB/GO: So this is your first year of doing the skits as part of the play?

Mrs. Frost: Yes, I don't know why we didn't do something like this before—this is part of the creative nature of this process. It is never ending; there is always something more you can try.

BB/GO: What is your favorite part about *Thwacked!*?

Mrs. Frost: Right now, and it will evolve as the play goes on, I am really excited to see Weston. The way he is jumping around the stage like a frog is excellent. I'm really interested in seeing how all this develops. The other part of it is that I am looking forward to doing more movement on the stage. I have to do a little brainstorming and creative choreography.

BB/GO: Thank you Mrs. Frost for all this great information. Next, we are going to interview your assistants, Mr. Frost and Mrs. Haus.

BB/GO: Hello Mr. Frost and Mrs. Haus. Thank you for participating in this interview. We have been looking forward to interviewing you. Do you help Mrs. Frost choose the play?

(continued on page 6)

Come to Kids' QuizBowl!

The TCSD Foundation will be hosting Kids' QuizBowl at Atlas Bowl on **Sunday, March 5th from 12:30 to 3pm**. There will be snacks, free bowling and shoe rental for kids and parents, and a cash bar. **No cover charge.**

-Elementary School QuizBowl – 1 – 1:45

-Middle School QuizBowl – 2 – 2:45

Parents are encouraged to stay, have fun, and try to outsmart their kids! (Adult supervision is requested for the Elementary School QuizBowlers.)



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TASP: Trumansburg After School Program

By Sophie Isacks, 5th Grade

Trumansburg After School Program is a fun program full of cool activities and lots more. Most everyone has fun at TASP. I would know, I go there.

TASP is a fun place for kids to enjoy the afternoon. Starting at 2:45 p.m., you can learn and play until you get picked up by 5:45 pm at the latest. At 5:30 p.m., kids who have younger siblings walk over with a counselor to the other after-school program at Trumansburg Elementary School.

We enjoy healthy snacks and fun activities such as origami with Eileen, the Winter Poster, the spelling bee, and diorama making. We also enjoy wire projects and more. We enjoy special events on half days, such as Dan the Snake Man and field trips.

There are two programs in TASP. There is the Elementary Program, for students in second grade and younger. There is also the Middle School Program, for the third, fourth and fifth graders.

I interviewed Lisa Collins, the director of TASP. I asked her what she thinks TASP does best, and she said: "I think TASP is really good at keeping children

safe and occupied after school. We try to observe what children choose to do and like to do and provide the ability to



do those things."

I asked Sofia Villa, Ellie Gattine, and Ava Putnam what they think TASP could work on and Sofia and Ava said the same

thing: "I think they could work on being more encouraging, not as an insult, just something they could work on." Ellie said, "They could work on their snacks a little. Just something to consider, like changing it up a bit, like less veggies and more things like juicy

pears and pizza bagels."

We have special events on half days, like field trips and special visits. The most recent ones are a field trip to the Science Center and a visit from Dan the Snake Man.

Dan the Snake Man is a man who comes to schools, birthday parties, and special events. He brings in a unique collection of reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates. I specifically remember the boa constrictor. I learned a lot about his "unique collection."

A field trip I've been on with TASP was to the Science Center. I remember looking in the magic mirrors and laughing at myself and best friend. I specifically remember the bus rides back and forth, where I got to meet and get to know a lot about people that I didn't know a lot about.

I love TASP, and I know most kids really enjoy it. I enjoy the cool activities and I also enjoy Dan the Snake Man and the Science Center and the snacks. I want to thank www.danthesnake.com, for supplying information and to Lisa Collins, for helping TASP become how great it is now. ■

Curriculum Night

By Allison Latini, 6th Grade

Curriculum Night is a night when parents and guardians of elementary students can meet with teachers to learn more about their student's experiences at school. This event is important because families can gain information about their child's education from a different perspective. They also can learn the best ways to help their kids. This year, Curriculum Night was held on October 4th from 6:00 - 7:30pm in the elementary school.

Mrs. Latini is a Special Education Teacher in kindergarten through second grade. She says Curriculum Night is important because "parents and guardians can experience what and how their children are learning and learn how to best support their kids at home." Curriculum Night is a great opportunity for parents and guardians to ask questions about what their kids are learning and how they can help them learn more. Mrs. Blaylock, a second grade Special Education Teacher said, "Curriculum Night is a chance for parents to get into the school,

and into their children's classrooms. This gives them the opportunity to get a brief view of their children's school day. They have a chance to meet the teachers and staff, to hear about the expectations of the grade levels, and to ask questions that may have occurred to them either at home, or while listening to the teachers describe an average day of a student. I know that some of our students liked the idea of their family 'going to school' instead of them."

This event wouldn't have been possible without help from teachers and volunteers. This year, student volunteers (including this reporter) from the middle and high school helped to run a daycare supervised by Mrs. Melvin and Mrs. Masterson, paraprofessionals in the elementary school. Also, the elementary PTO (parent teacher organization) provided pizza dinners for families, as well as for teachers and volunteers.

Many people within the school community had positive opinions about Curriculum

Night. Mrs. Kaplan, a parent, PTO representative, and 6th grade teacher said, "The PTO was happy to support an event that brought the ES community together. We felt that Curriculum Night was well attended by parents/guardians. Parents were able to gain useful information about their child's curriculum and education." Also, Ms. DeCarlo, a K-2 Special Education Teacher said, "It's important because it gives parents an opportunity to really see what's going on in the classroom and ask teachers and therapists specific questions about the curriculum."

If you are a parent of an elementary student you should come to Curriculum Night next year. The event can always use volunteers, both students and adults. Curriculum Night is important because it supports a strong connection between home and school, and that leads to student success, which is what school is about. ■

The TCSD Foundation extends a sincere thank you to this amazing community!

In honor of our tenth anniversary, we set a \$10,000 fundraising goal for 2016. And we made it! Actually, we did better than that, receiving \$12,500! You helped us spread the word, you shared your financial support, and you cheered us on. Our students are great. Our schools are great. Our supporters are outstanding.

The TCSD Foundation is able to fund educational and extra curricular programs through donations from community members like you. Your donation goes a long way to make these programs possible. Please visit

<http://tcsdfoundation.org/donate/> to contribute today.



Sportsmanship

By Nik Nelson and Lincoln Lansing, 4th Grade

“Good job, dork.”

“You are so helpless at this!”

These are some horrible things to say to a friend or another player when playing any sport. Everyone has heard of sportsmanship, but why is it important? What does it matter if you make a fair play and show a player respect?

It matters! Showing sportsmanship is necessary because you will be liked and be chosen for teams more often. If you have sportsmanship you will learn how to work as a team and get along with others. Playing sports will help you learn how to become strong and challenge yourself. You can push yourself and become the best.

Here is how to be a good sport: One thing you should do is always give your best effort even if you are losing. Always

try and never give up. Give respect to people that play and people that help out. Do not hurt someone on purpose or you may sit out or get ejected from a game by an official. Make sure the teams are fair and even. For example, 10 vs. 5 is not fair and people will stop playing. Sportsmanship is how you control your victories and defeats.

Being a bad sport is hurtful to everyone involved. One bad effect is you do not get to play very much. Also your coach will be disappointed. Another bad effect is people quit. How will you be able to play with 3 players? You can really hurt somebody’s feelings. Here are some Trumansburg sports that you can get kicked off the team for having bad sportsmanship: football,

baseball, basketball, soccer, tennis, and volleyball. So you see how important sportsmanship is. ■



Classroots

By Keira Burton, 6th Grade

Many of the people reading this article live in in the Tompkins County area or even the Finger Lakes area and have probably heard of the festival located in the Trumansburg fairgrounds called *Grassroots*.

If you haven’t, it is a four day festival, celebrating local music and local art. It is very popular. People come from across the country to celebrate it. In honor of the festival, Trumansburg Central School District gathered the three schools (the Elementary School, Russell I. Doig Middle School, and Charles O. Dickerson High School), creatively naming it off of a play on words of *Grassroots—Classroots* (named for the fact that students are joining together in celebration).

Held for the first time, it was on October 8th, 2016. Located in the recess area of the middle school, it was from 1:15 to 2:30 pm. Classroots was celebrated to showcase the local arts and food of the community. Everybody came, from pre-k to 12th grade. Performances included the 6th grade music classes playing ukuleles, the high school band, and the high school jazz band.

Students and teachers danced to the music while snacking on delicious food made by teachers and local chefs. The food included homemade mac & cheese, pizza, hummus, and granola bars.

It was a hot day, many seeking shade under trees, though some withstood the heat and took the time as an opportunity for an extra recess. Everybody enjoyed the celebration, and some students were disappointed to leave. Hopefully next year classes can again join together and celebrate the great Classroots. ■

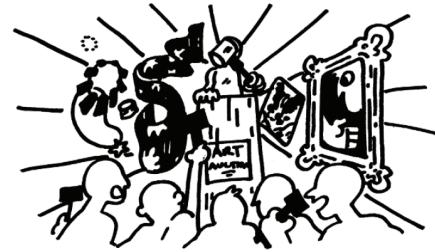


Save the Date! Community Art Auction March 31st

The TCSD Foundation will be celebrating its 10-Year Anniversary and the close of the district-wide Youth Art Month with a Community Art Auction. Join us Friday, March 31st, 7pm-9pm at the Trumansburg Conservatory of Fine Arts for appetizers and Forge Cellars wine (sold by the glass). \$10 entrance fee. Silent and live auction items. Door prizes. All proceeds go to funding innovative teacher-inspired programming like Youth Art Month.

We are seeking donations of art from community artists!

Are you a local artist looking to build your network and support art in our schools? Email contact@tcsdfoundation.org. Deadline for art donations: March 15th.



Thwacked! continued

Mr. Frost: No, I am on pins and needles to find out what the play will be, just like you! I find out before you do, but it is Mrs. Frost's choice.

BB/GO: How do you choose your teenage helpers?

Mrs. Haus: The high school students call or ask Mrs. Frost if they can help.

BB/GO: How many years have you both been helping with the play?

Mrs. Haus: This is my ninth year.

Mr. Frost: It is just about as many years for me.

BB/GO: How did you come up with the audition script?

Mr. Frost: This is what I do best! I just type silly stuff. Wait until you see the third skit! It is going to be VERY cute!

BB/GO: What is the most difficult part of helping with the play?

Mr. Frost: The hardest thing for me is wishing the kids would pay attention more and learn their lines ahead of time.

Mrs. Haus: For me, the hardest part is being backstage to help during the performance, and I don't get to see the performance. I like to help, but I would like to see the completed performance.

BB/GO: What is your favorite thing about helping with the play?

Mr. Frost: Watching the growth of the play and the students. I love the excitement of opening night! Costumes are on, hair is done, we are just ready! The butterflies and the energy are great.

Mrs. Haus: All of the students! Just watching you from the beginning, and pulling it together and doing a SMASHING job at the end! I also like how proud you all feel of yourselves after the musical and how your parents are out here clapping their hearts out.

BB/GO: In the past, what has been your favorite play?

Mr. Frost: I have to choose two or three. *The Pirates of Penzance* was the toughest show we have ever done, but it was my

favorite. I also liked *Pinocchio* because there was one student who really came out of his shell and delivered lines with attitude and the audience really applauded him. We changed his school experience. He is a different student today because of the play.

Mrs. Haus: *Oliver* was my favorite play. *Tom Sawyer* was also a great show.

Mr. Frost: *Tom Sawyer* was also a tough one for us. We had so many set changes! We were tired!

BB/GO: Who wrote the added skits for *Thwacked*?

Mr. Frost: I did—this is what I do best.



I enjoy telling jokes and writing the skits. I enjoy making the skits funny.

Mr. Frost/Mrs. Haus: We really have fun and enjoy this process a lot. We enjoy being connected and helping with the play. We have a good time!

BB/GO: Do you have anything else to add?

Mrs. Haus: Trumansburg Elementary School is very fortunate to have Mrs. Frost and to have this experience of a school play.

Mr. Frost: Yes, this is a great experience!

BB/GO: Thank you for helping with the play! We love being in the play! We are going to interview other students too

about this experience.

After speaking to several students about their experiences of being part of the play, here is what we learned:

"I like the songs and I like the storyline!"
Eamon Herman, 3rd Grade

"I like the songs, I like the Hop dance, and it is fun to be in the play" **Boden Baier, 3rd Grade**

"What I like about the play, is that I have a fun Narrator part and I follow Bailey around and make her angry at me because I am all funny!" **Lizzie Tostanoski, 4th Grade**

"I like that there are a lot of parts and that the play is called Thwacked!" **Izzy LaForge, 4th Grade**

"I like the whole play itself!" **Weston Peake, 4th Grade**

"I like the solo that I have, I like the songs, I like the dance at the Hop" **Jezebel Redmond, 4th Grade**

"I like that the play has a fairytale theme" **Matthew White, 4th Grade**

"I like the songs" **Libby Foster, 3rd Grade**

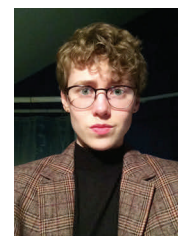
"I am really excited to be in it! I am ready to perform!" **Evelyn Pennock, 3rd Grade**

We hope you came to see frogs talk, the sky fall, the townspeople dance, the Mayor get confused, and Rachel save the day! The performance was on Thursday, January 26th at 7pm in the Trumansburg Elementary auditorium. There was also a performance that day for students at 1:30pm. "Hop" you enjoyed the play! ■

Meet Our Editors



Amanda Livingston is currently a senior 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 is a 2013 recipient of a New York Women in Communications scholarship, and president of Ithaca College Women in Communications. 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—this is her last issue. She is attending New York University's School of Professional Studies to get her masters in publishing. Find her online at amandaunderconstruction.com.



Hanna Hertzler is the illustrator and student editor in chief of the *Trumansburg Troubadour*. She is a senior at Charles O. Dickerson High School, and has been working on the *Troubadour* for three 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.